

Mahavir Seva Trust Presentation



Kshamadan

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A Story From Ancient Jain Literature 'Trishtishalaka Purush Charitra'

KSHAMADAN

The quality of forgiveness has the secret of happiness in life within it, which can't be expressed in words. It can only be felt. Only forgiveness can heal the old wounds of revenge, opposition, bitterness, enmity etc. Jainism has established forgiveness as the basis of friendship. That's why Paryushan Parva is celebrated as "a festival of forgiving or friendship". Only those who forgive all on that day with true a heart, really follow Jainism in the proper manner.

This historic event took place about 2600 years before now. The king of Sindh, Udayan and the king of Ujjaini, Chandpradyot—both were the sons-in-law of the President of the Republic of Vaishali, Maharaj Chetak. King Udayan was a very brave, honest and religious ruler, whereas Chandpradyot was known for his proud and rude nature. His biggest weakness was 'woman'.

By getting blindly attracted towards "Golden Beauty", the maid in the palace of King Udayan, he invited enmity with him. In the ensuing war, Chandpradyot was defeated and held captive by Udayan.

Inspired by Queen Prabhavati, King Udayan, became an ardent devotee of Bhagwan Mahavir. He had absorbed the qualities of non-violence and compassion. On the Samvatsari day, while seeking forgiveness from all the lives, he also sought the same from Chandpradyot, his prisoner. Chandpradyot made a meaningful comment : "What is the point in seeking forgiveness from me after holding me captive ? If you really seek forgiveness, then first release me."

On this, religious King Udayan released his enemy. He condoned all his offenses and embraced him with love. Moved by his greatness, Chandpradyot fell into his feet and said " Udayan! You are great !"

By truly adapting forgiveness in life, King Udayan set an example as a brave forgiver. Trishashtishalaka Purush Charitra etc. ancient Jain literature has a gripping narration of this event.

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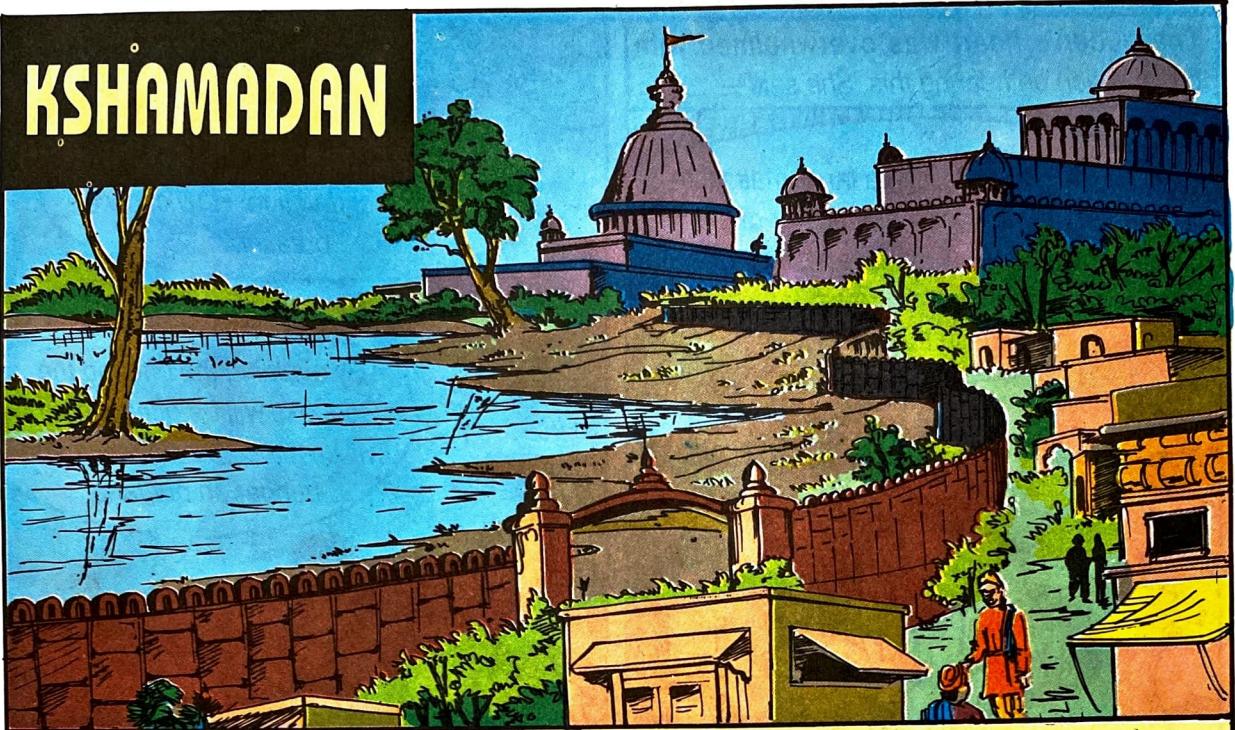
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KSHAMADAN



Vitbhay Pattan was a beautiful kingdom on the banks of river Sindhu. It was ruled by the very bold and adventurous King Udayan. An ardent devotee of Goddess Bhawani Devi, he was very generous and religious. He had extended his kingdom by conquering 16 neighbouring states.

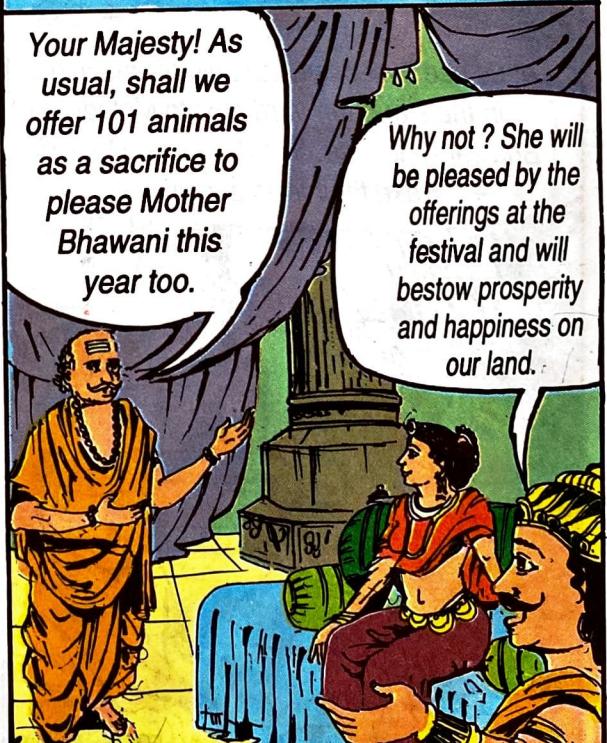
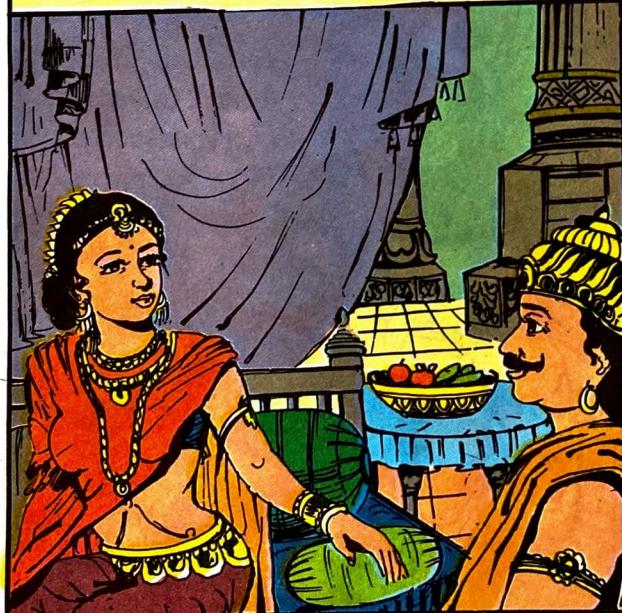
He was happily married to Queen Prabhavati, the daughter of King Chetak of Magadh.

Prabhavati was a kind lady. She followed the principles preached by Bhagwan Mahavir. King Udayan loved his wife very much.

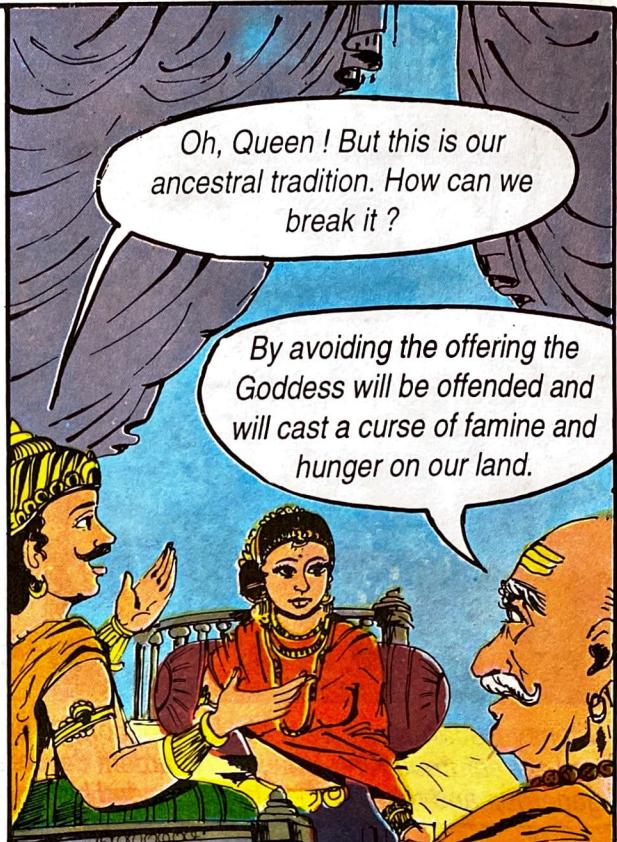
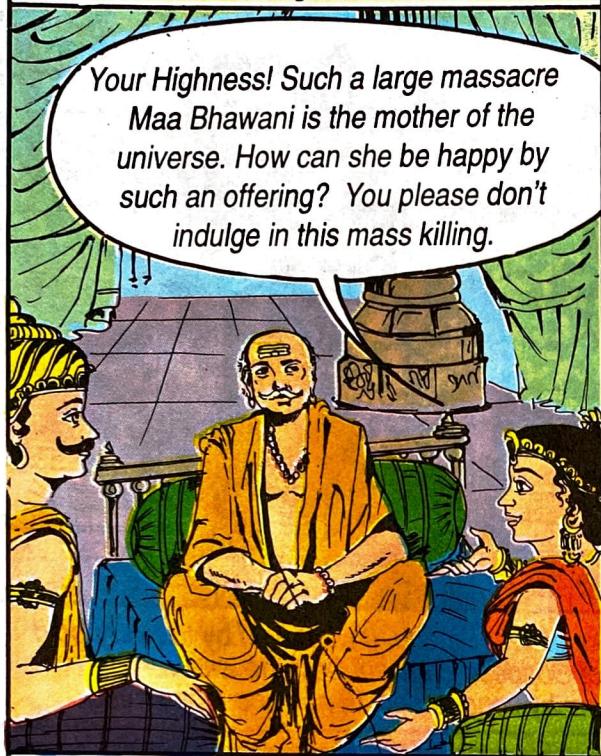
Once while the royal couple was sitting in the king's chamber, the Raj Purohit (royal priest) entered.

Your Majesty! As usual, shall we offer 101 animals as a sacrifice to please Mother Bhawani this year too.

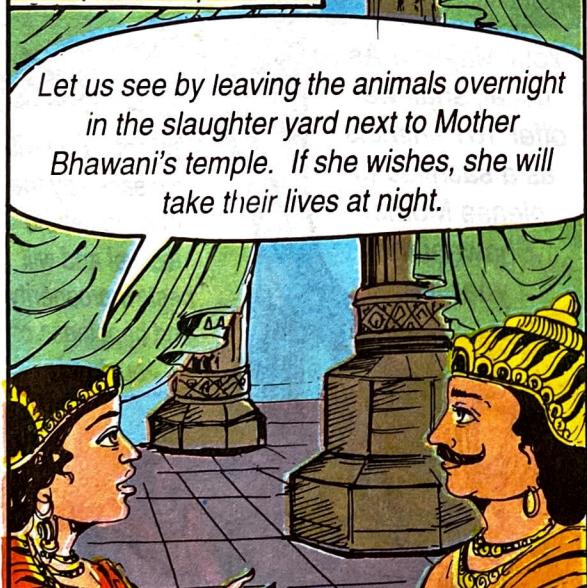
Why not? She will be pleased by the offerings at the festival and will bestow prosperity and happiness on our land.



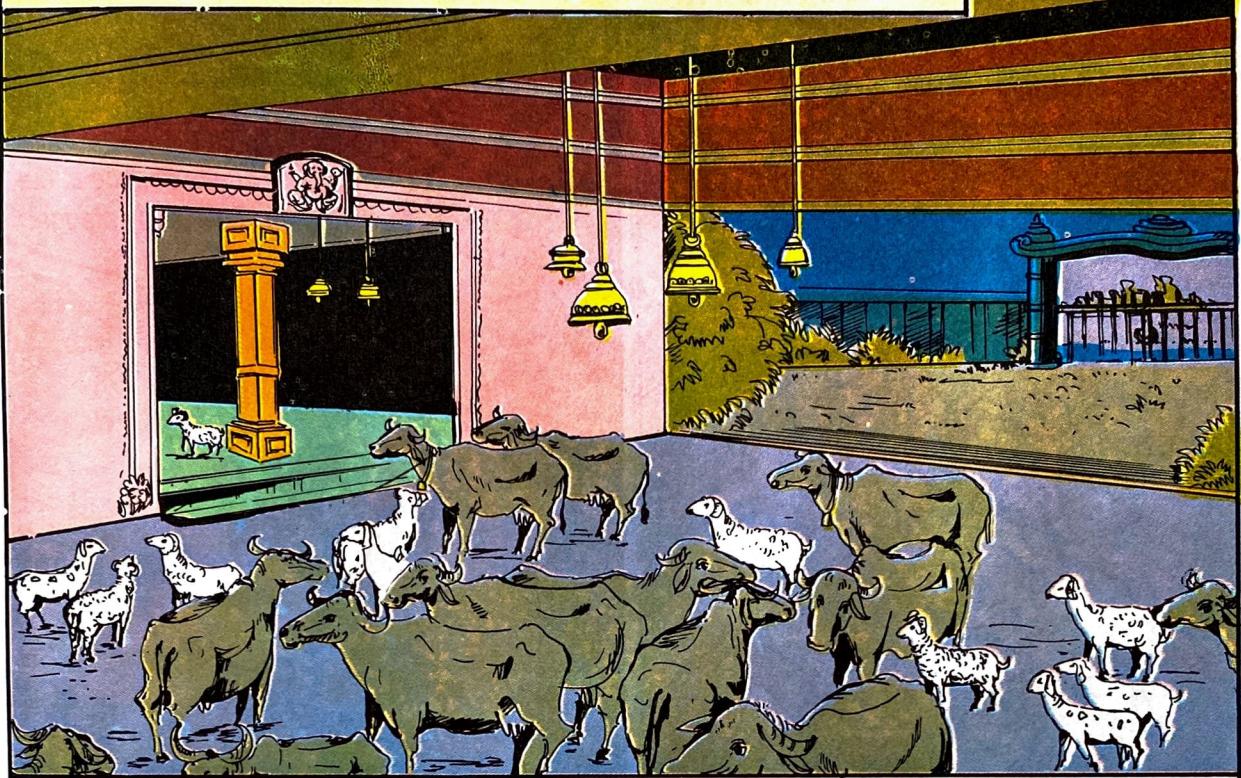
The queen's heart was overwhelmed with compassion on hearing this. She said—



The queen responded—



That night, by the king's order, all the animals brought for sacrifice were locked in the slaughter yard under tight security.



Next morning all the people curiously gathered outside the temple to see what had happened to the animals. When the door was opened, they saw all the animals strolling alive in the compound. All were astonished.



When King Udayan and Queen Prabhavati heard these news—

Incredible ! Mother did not accept a single animal !

I told you. Mother Bhawani is a mother after all. She never takes any life.

O King! Now you'll have to keep your promise.

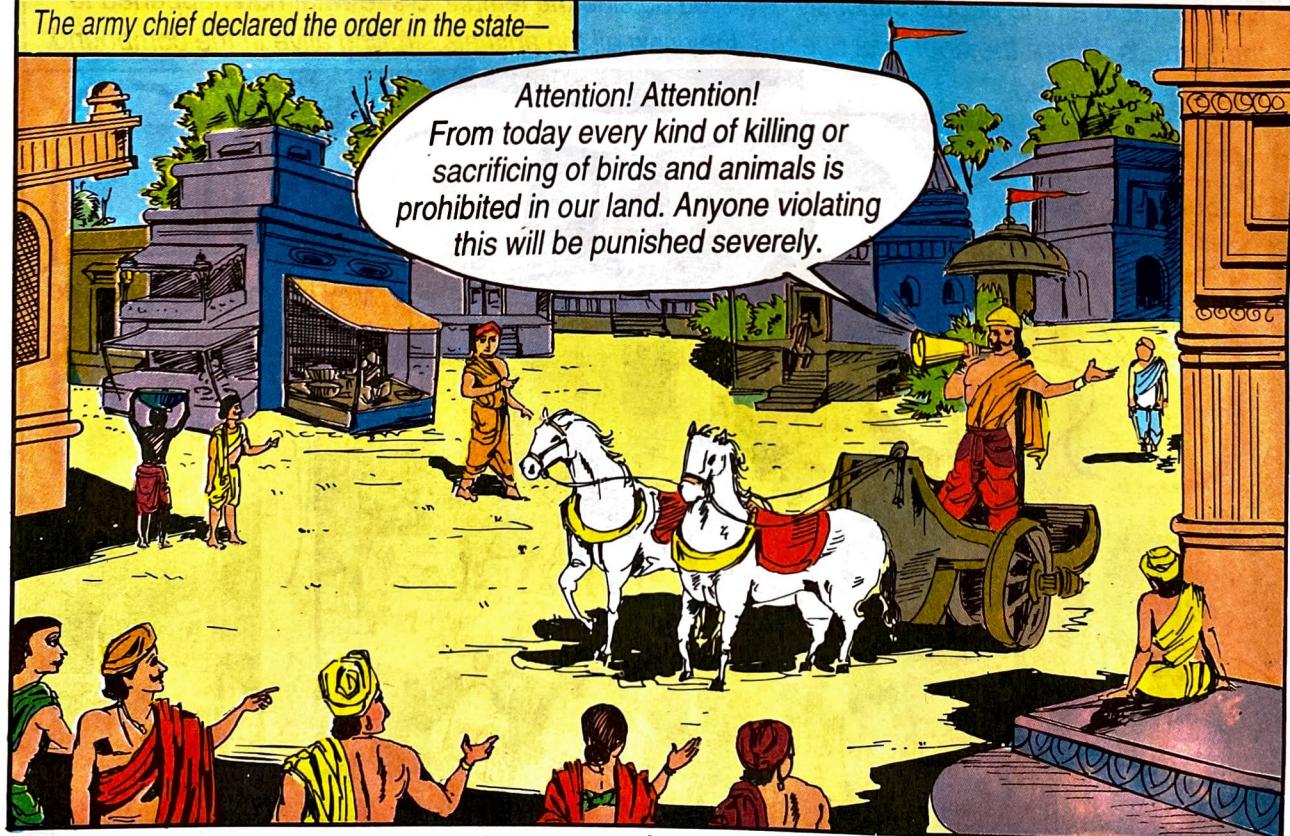
Of course, darling ! Now there will be no such sacrifice in our kingdom. This is my pledge.



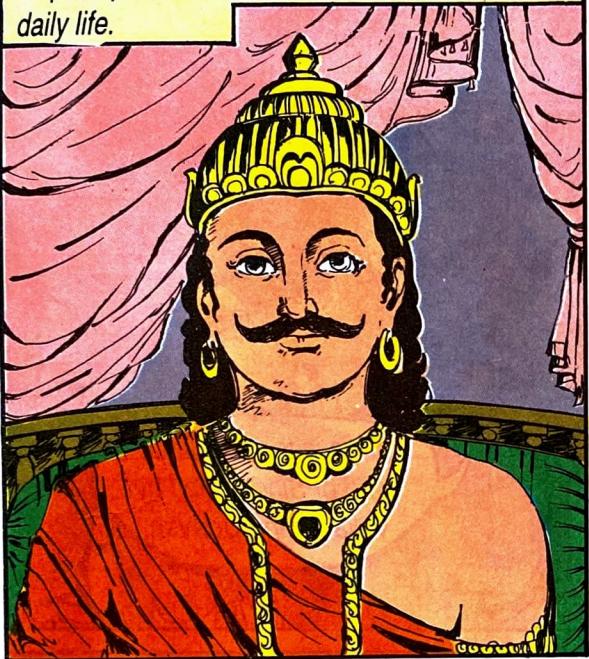
Then the king called the army chief and sent out orders banning the slaughter of animals.

The army chief declared the order in the state—

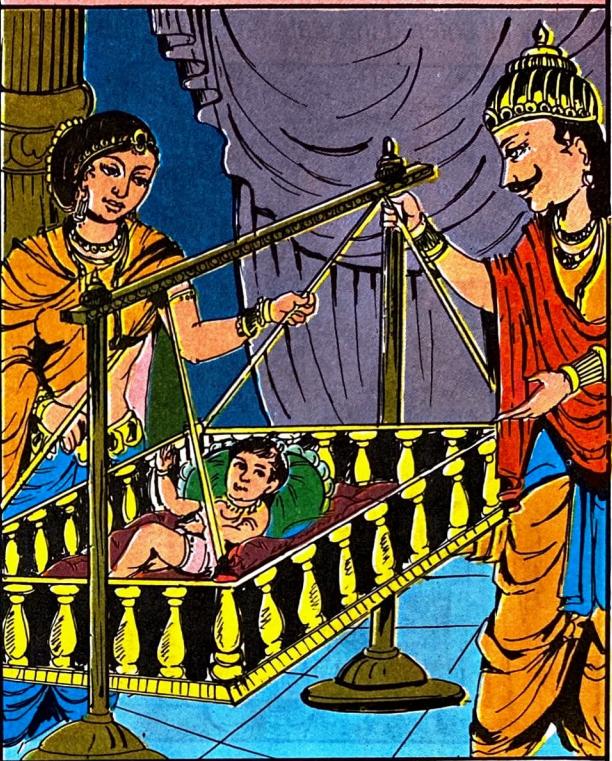
Attention! Attention!
From today every kind of killing or sacrificing of birds and animals is prohibited in our land. Anyone violating this will be punished severely.



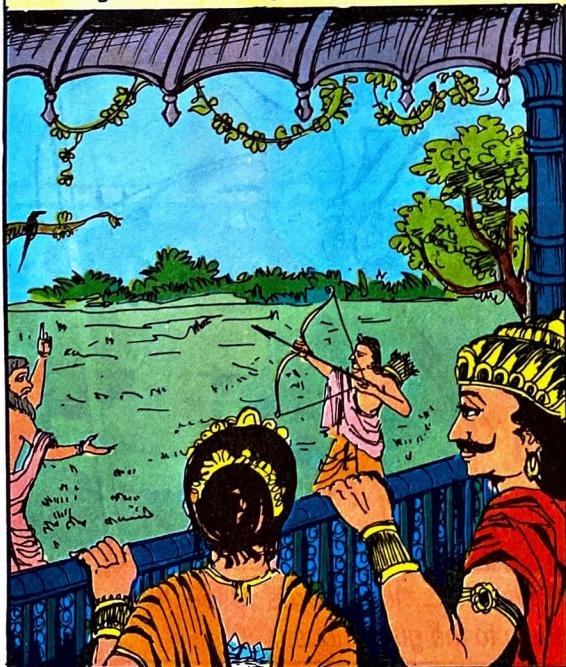
This incident suddenly changed the life-style of King Udayan. He also started following the principles of truth, non-violence and forgiveness preached by Bhagwan Mahavir. He adopted the 12 principles of Jainism for common man in his daily life.



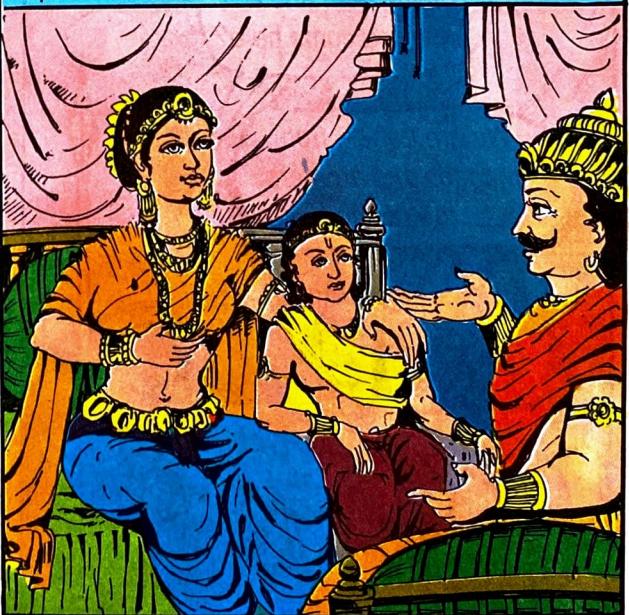
After a few months, a son was born to them. They named him Abhichi Kumar.



When the prince grew up, the king decided to send him to the best guru for training.

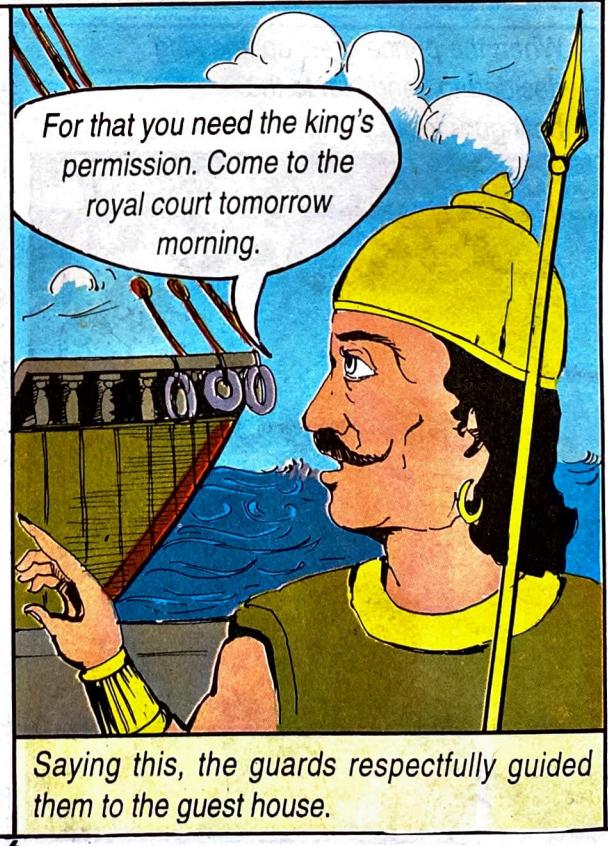
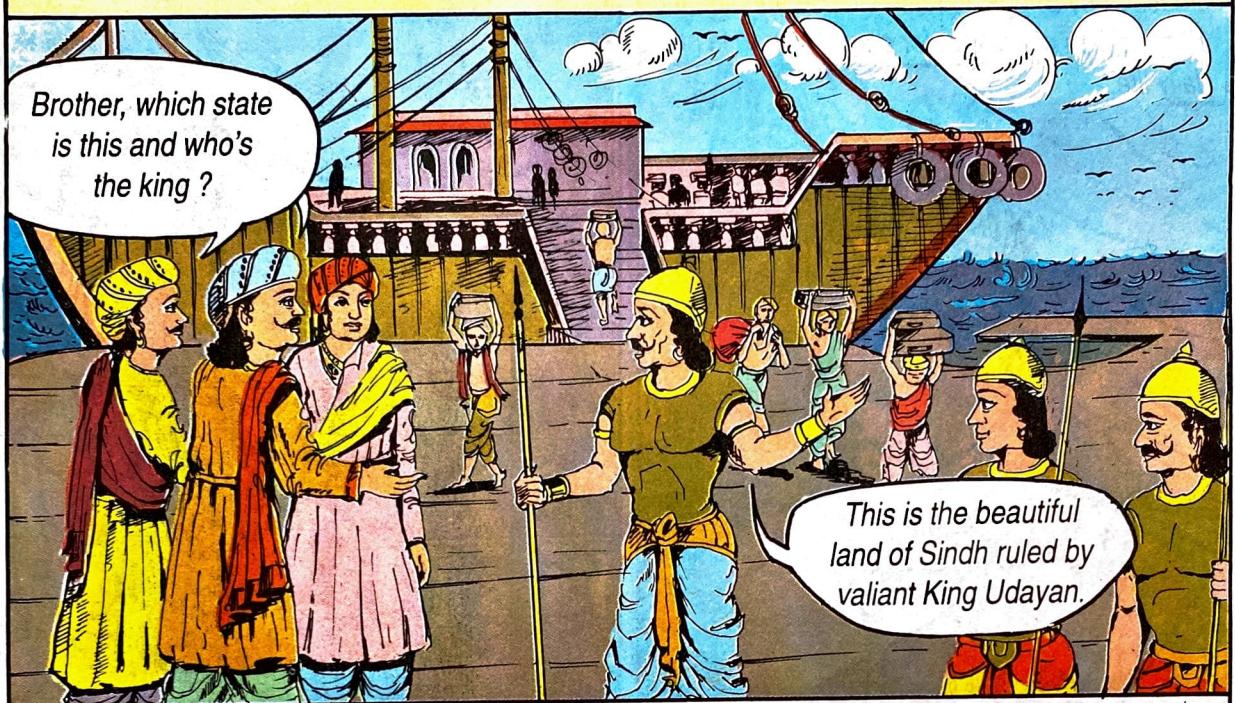


The prince was a genius. Soon, he became an expert in all the arts.



Thus, the life of King Udayan was rolling on happily with his intelligent son and the religious wife.

Once a trader from Magadh named Dharmasar reached the beautiful banks of river Sindhu with his ship while returning from Kabul and Gandhaar. Here he met two other traders from Magadh. They all entered the state and asked the coast guards—



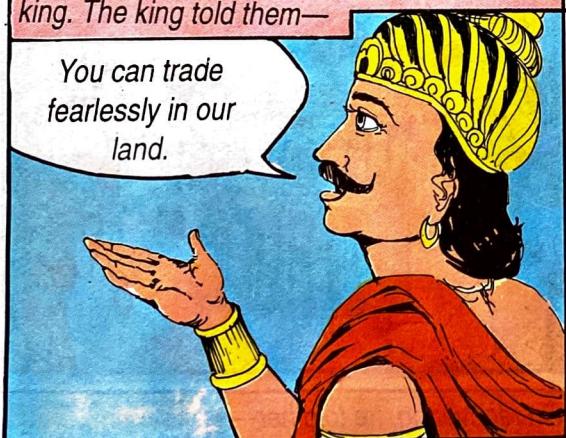
Next morning the traders appeared in the royal court—

Lord! We are the traders from Magadh. We seek your permission to trade here. Kindly accept these gifts from us.



The traders presented precious gifts to the king. The king told them—

You can trade fearlessly in our land.



At that time Dharmasar said—

O King! We wish to present a valuable pearl necklace to your Queen who hails from our Magadh*



Dharmasar took out the sparkling pearly necklace and presented it to the queen.

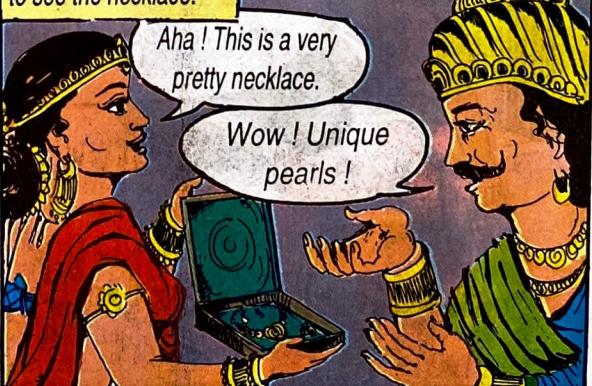
Aha! This is a very pretty necklace.

Wow! Unique pearls!

O Queen! Please accept this gift as a token of love from our motherland.

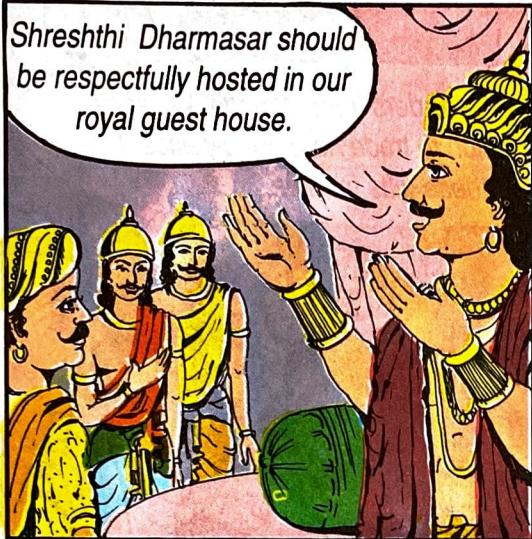


King Udayan and Queen Prabhavati were extremely pleased to see the necklace.

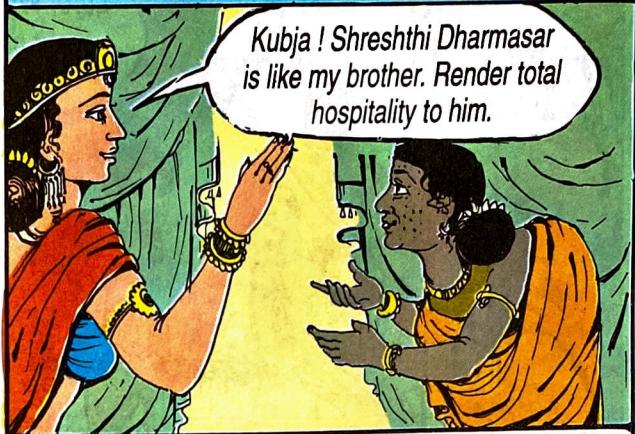


* Queen Prabhavati was the princess of the king of Magadh.

Shreshthi Dharmasar should be respectfully hosted in our royal guest house.



The queen called her faithful maid Kubja and said—



The other traders sold their goods and returned to Magadh. But Dharmasar extended his stay in Sindh on King's request.

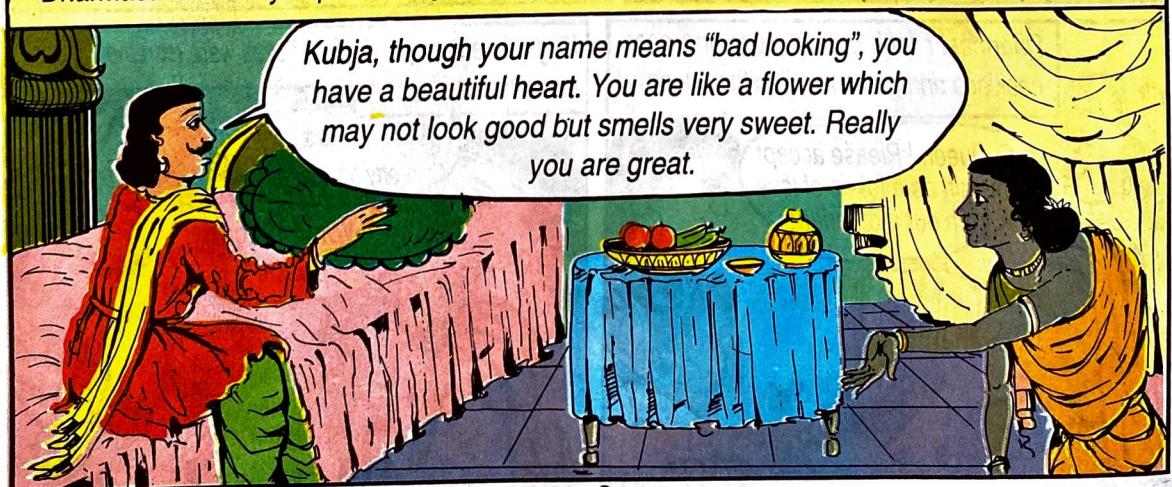


One night, Dharmasar became seriously ill. The royal doctor was called who gave him medicines. Kubja selflessly looked after him.



Dharmasar was very impressed by Kubja's caring. On recovering, he told her—

Kubja, though your name means "bad looking", you have a beautiful heart. You are like a flower which may not look good but smells very sweet. Really you are great.



Hearing the praise, Kubja respectfully lowered her eyes.

Kubja, I'm happy with your service. I've few divine things with me. You choose something as a gift from me

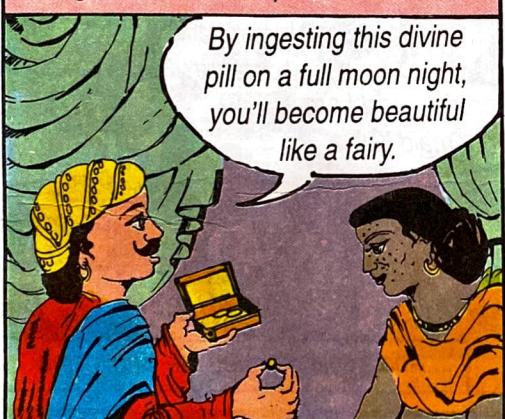
Oh Sir ! Ugly looks is the biggest pain for a woman.

This is my only dissatisfaction. I wish only for beauty.

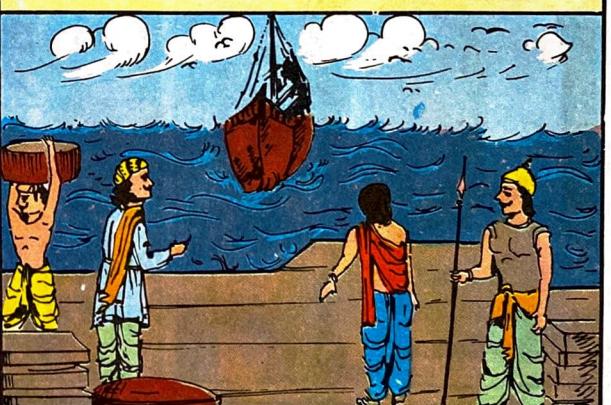


Hearing this, he opened his treasure box and gave her a divine pill.

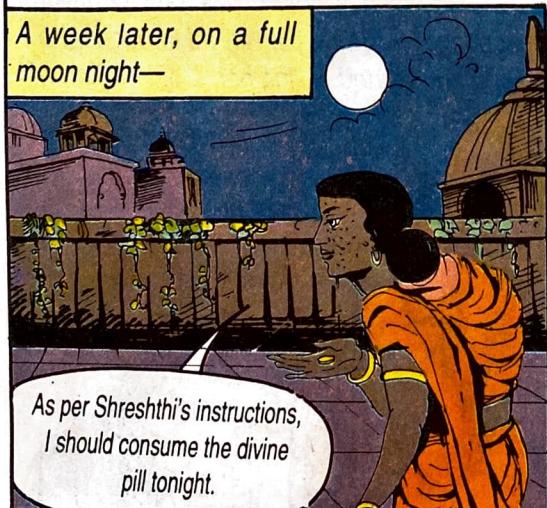
By ingesting this divine pill on a full moon night, you'll become beautiful like a fairy.



Next day Shreshthi Dharmasar thanked the king and the queen and set out for Magadh.

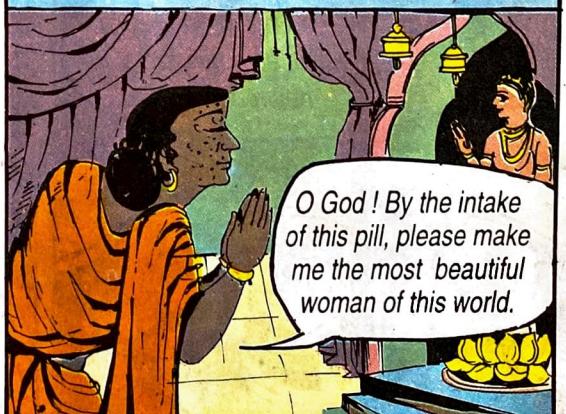


A week later, on a full moon night—



As per Shreshthi's instructions, I should consume the divine pill tonight.

Kubja took bath, got ready and prayed to God before taking the divine pill.



O God ! By the intake of this pill, please make me the most beautiful woman of this world.

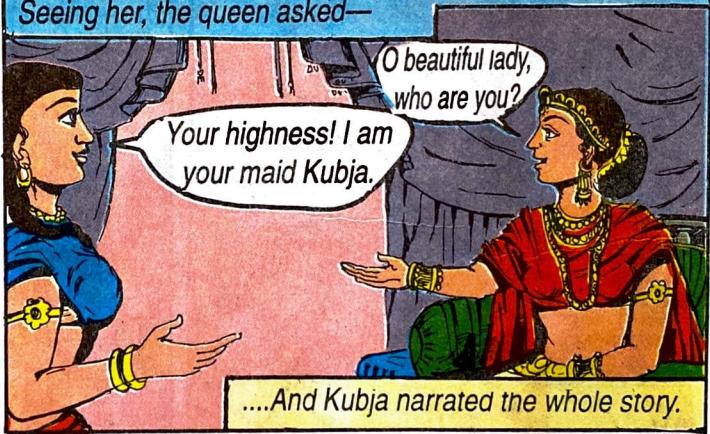
As she consumed the divine pill, there was divine glow within her body and she turned into an astonishingly beautiful female.



Looking into the mirror, she was surprised.

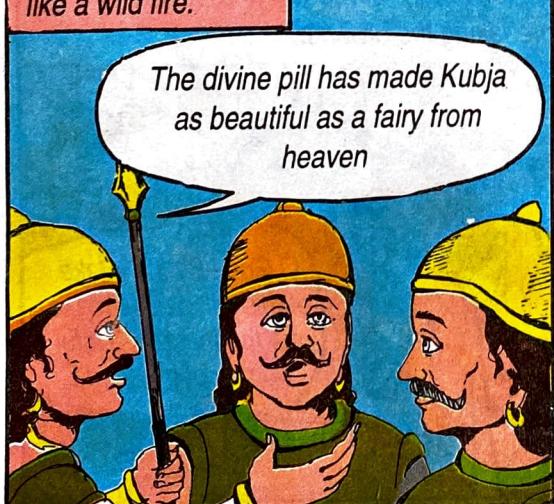


soon, she went to Queen Prabhavati in the palace. On Seeing her, the queen asked—

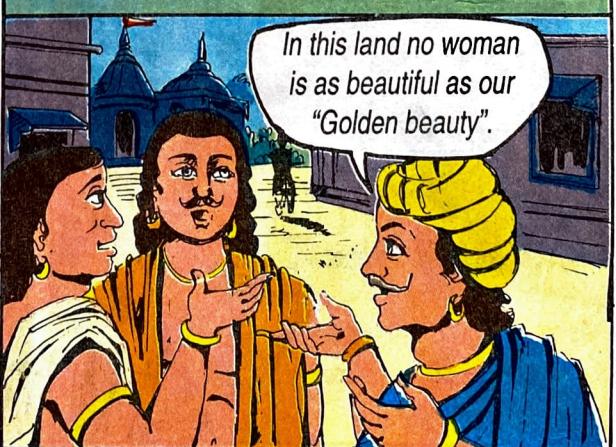


....And Kubja narrated the whole story.

This news spread throughout the palace like a wild fire.



In a few days, the news of Kubja's transformation by consuming the divine pill spread throughout Sindh. People started calling her "Golden Beauty".



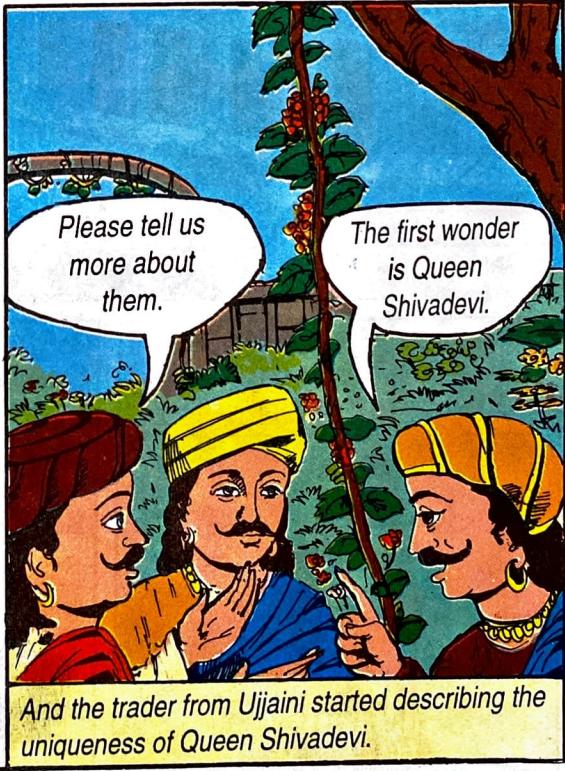
In those days Ujjaini was a famous trading centre of India. Its king was Chandpradyot. He was known in the entire land for being proud. Beautiful women and unique things were his weaknesses.



Once few traders from Sindh visited Ujjaini. While relaxing in a beautiful garden on the banks of river Shipra, they met some traders from Ujjaini.

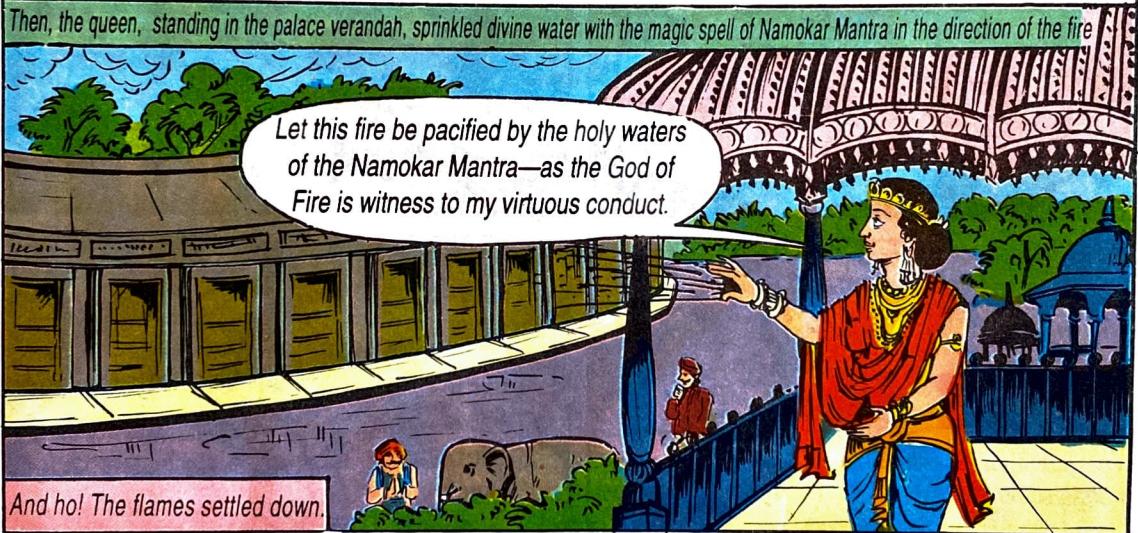


They talked amongst themselves



And the trader from Ujjaini started describing the uniqueness of Queen Shivadevi.

Once Ujjaini was attacked by a devil and a widespread fire engulfed the main market. People tried to control it by spraying water through the trunks of elephants and pouring dry sand and mud. But they could not.



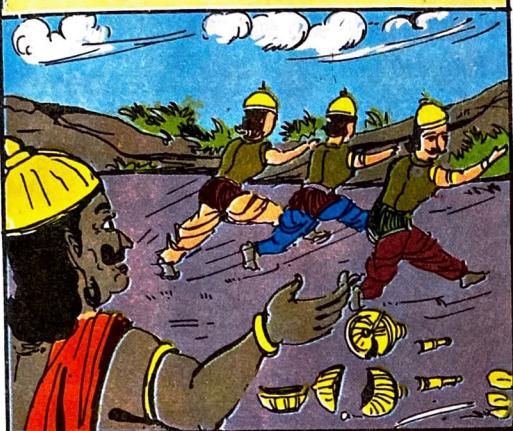
The second attraction is the iron-man messenger Lohjanjh, who can walk 250 Kms a day.



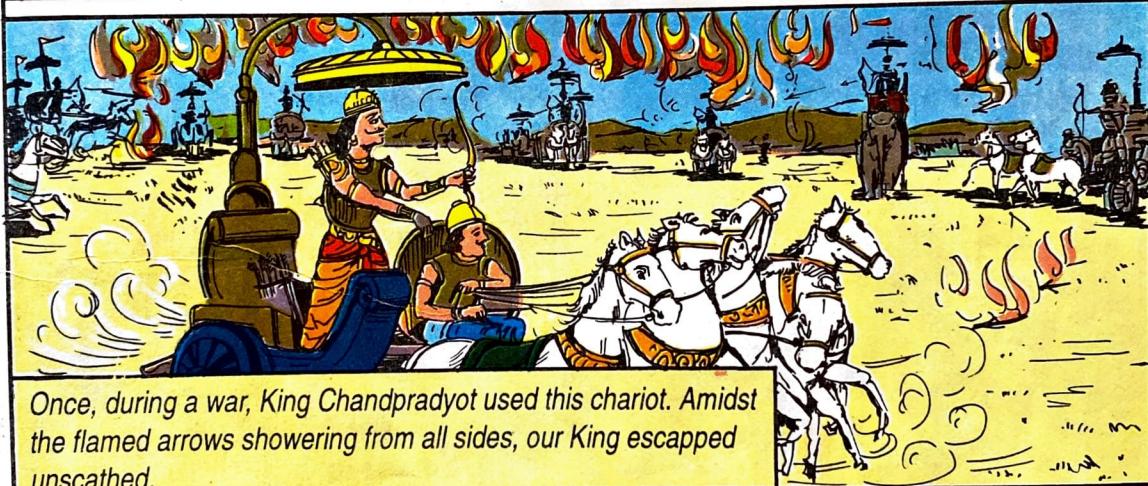
Once a rival king caught this messenger and had his thighs beaten up with iron maces.



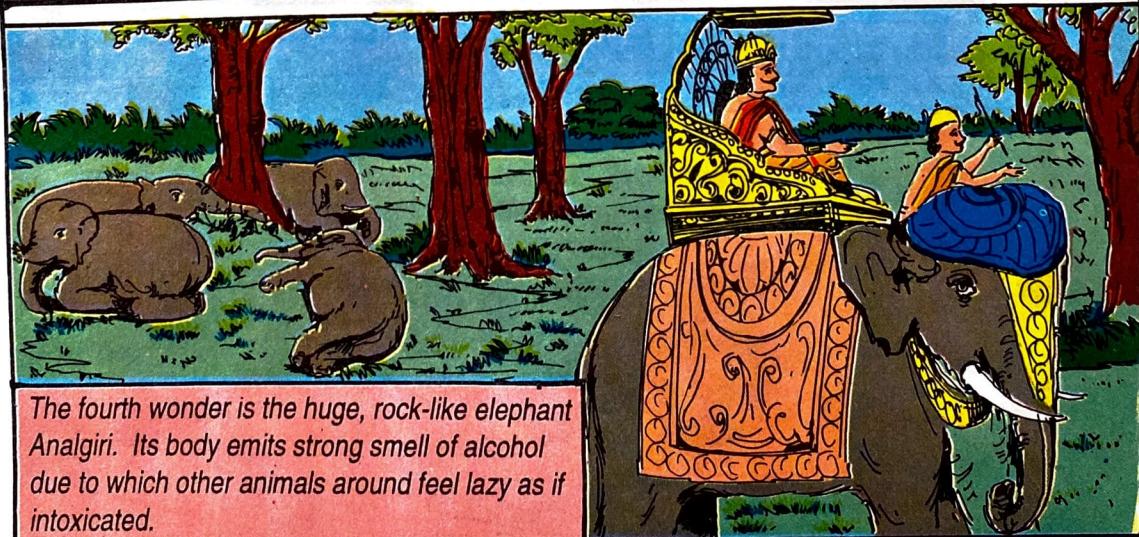
The iron maces were shattered but nothing happened to him. Hence the name, Lohjangh, the iron-man.



The third divine wonder is the fire-proof chariot which was presented to the king by Vidhyadhar, for helping him in a war.



Once, during a war, King Chandpradyot used this chariot. Amidst the flamed arrows showering from all sides, our King escaped unscathed.



The fourth wonder is the huge, rock-like elephant Analgiri. Its body emits strong smell of alcohol due to which other animals around feel lazy as if intoxicated.

Completing, the trader from Ujjaini said—

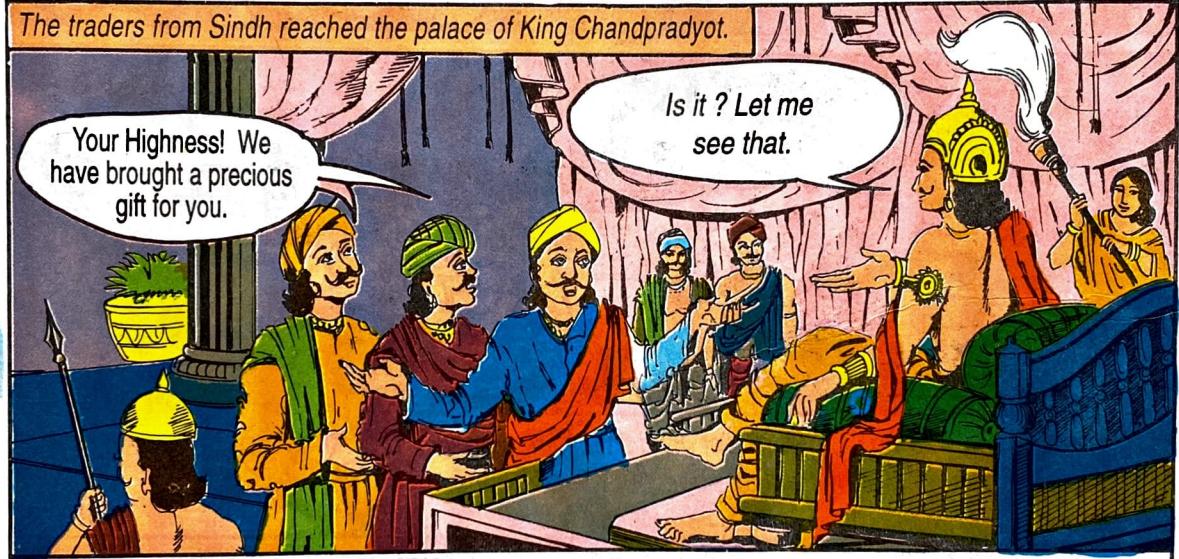


The trader shows him the picture of Golden beauty.

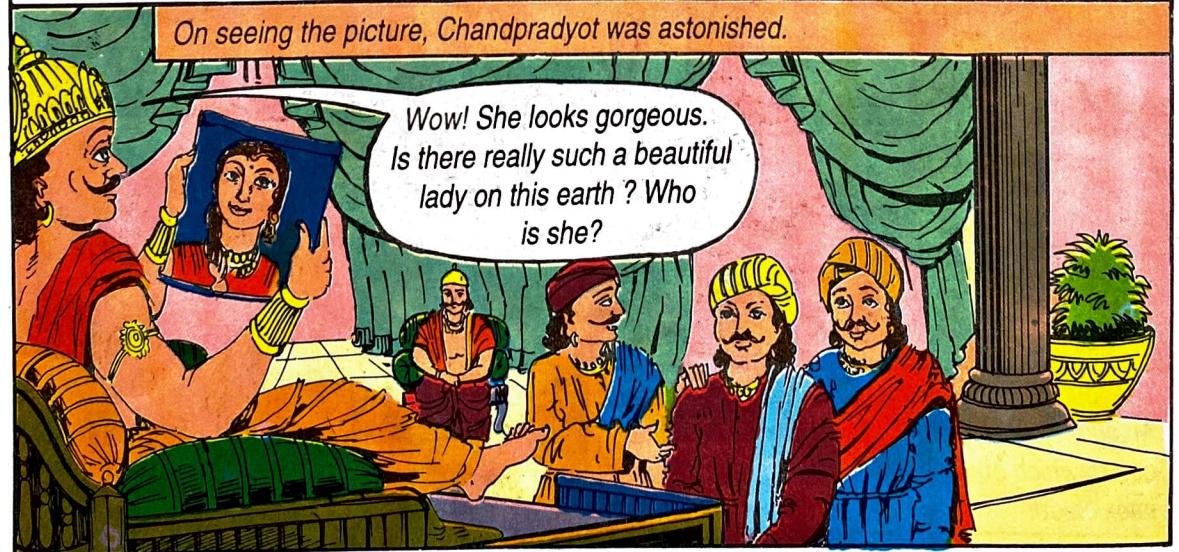
She has heavenly beauty!
Present this picture to our
king. He'll surely
reward you.

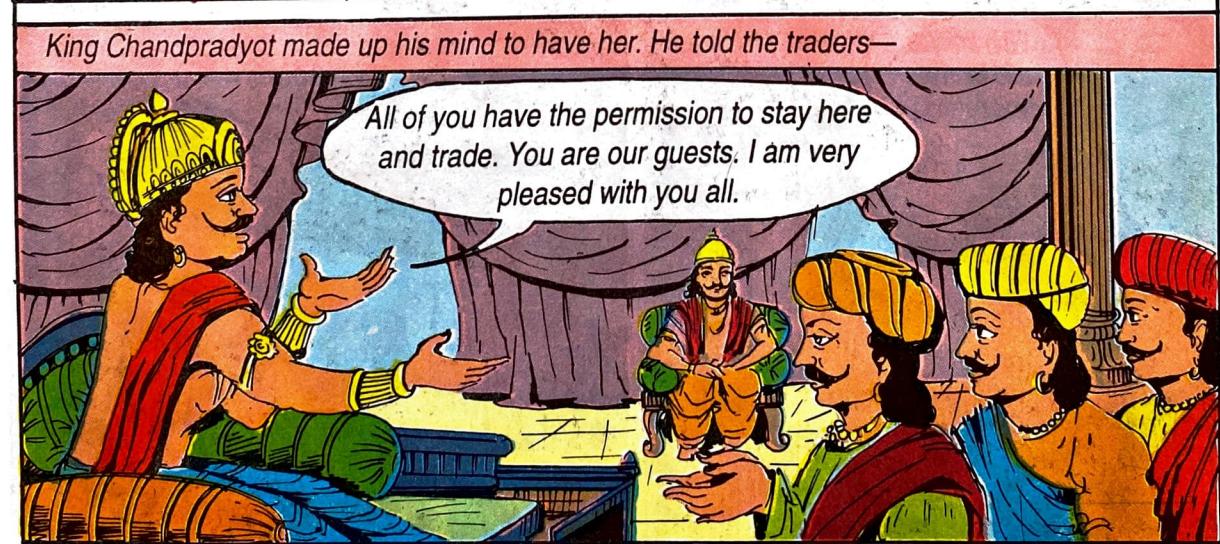
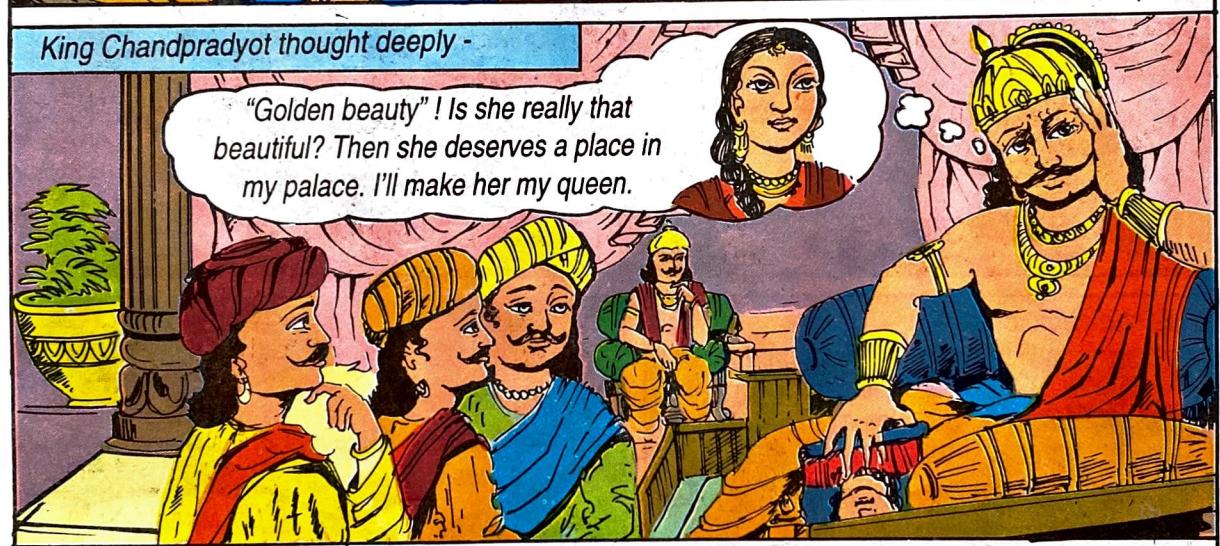


The traders from Sindh reached the palace of King Chandpradyot.

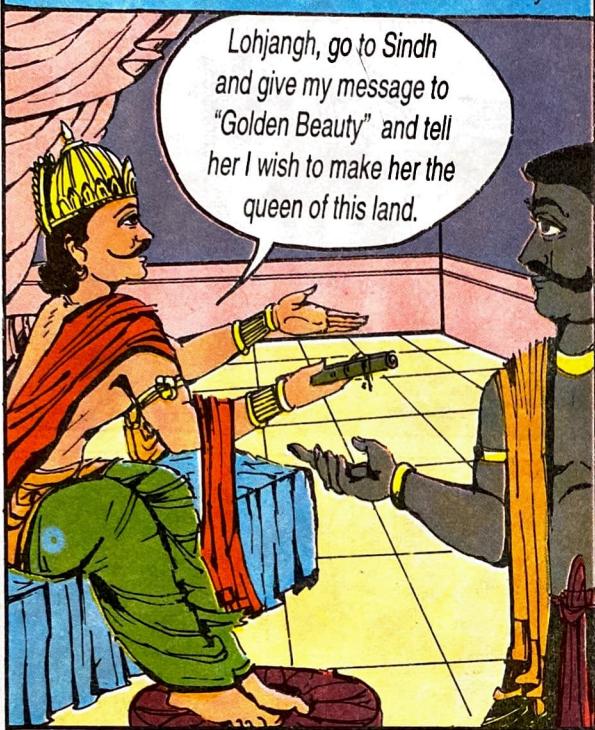


On seeing the picture, Chandpradyot was astonished.





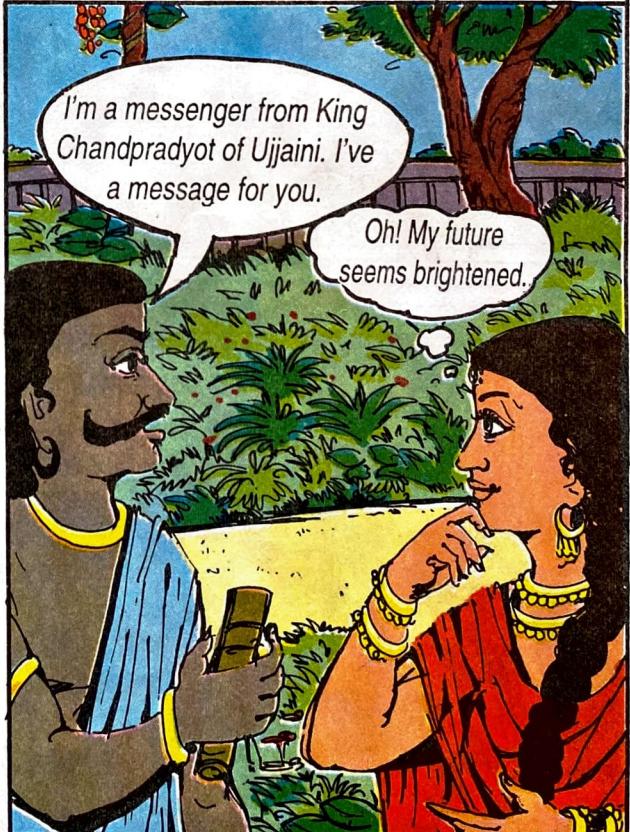
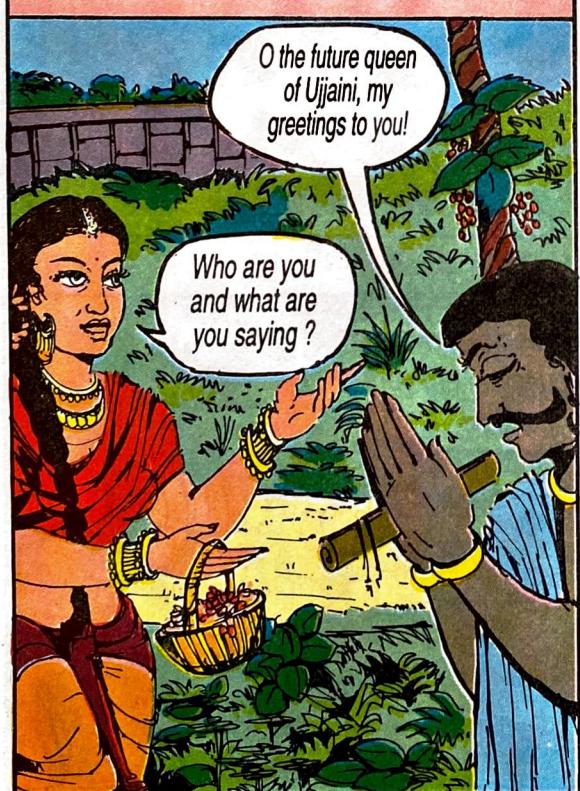
After the traders left, Chandpradyot called his messenger, Lohjangh, and sent him to Sindh with a personal message to "Golden beauty".



Lohjangh reached Sindh with the speed of wind and waited for "Golden Beauty" in the garden of the palace. "Golden Beauty" arrived there to pluck flowers for worship.



As she came closer—



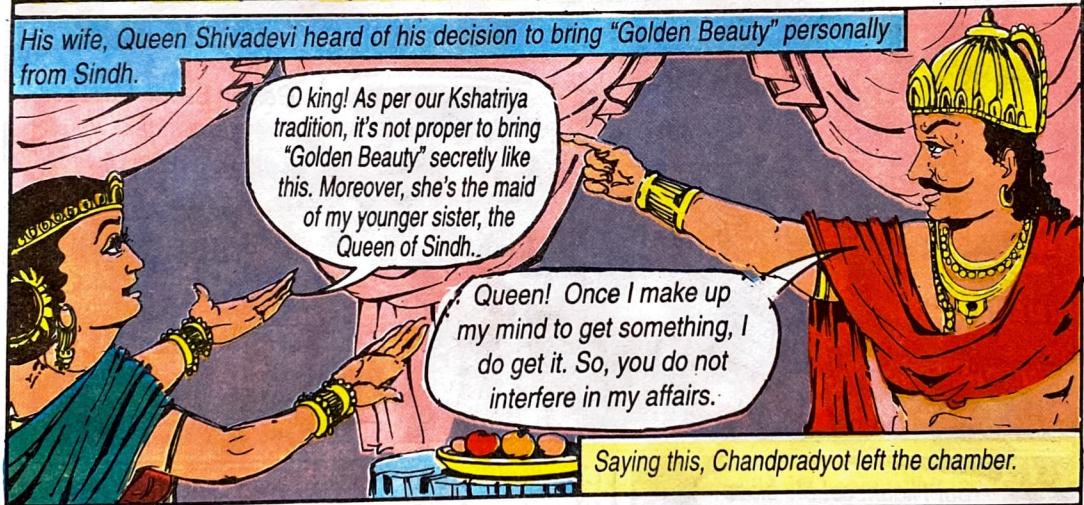
Hearing the message, "Golden Beauty" was very happy, but without revealing it, she told him—



Lohjangh returned to Ujjaini and gave her message to the king.



His wife, Queen Shivadevi heard of his decision to bring "Golden Beauty" personally from Sindh.



Saying this, Chandpradyot left the chamber.

That night, with a few trusted soldiers, Chandpradyot set out for Sindh on the back of Analgiri.



Soon, the elephant reached the capital of King Udayan, Sindh. The secret messenger conveved this news to "Golden Beauty".

The king himself has come to take you and is waiting in the royal garden for you

Tell him, I'll come there sometime before midnight

Late at night, the "Golden Beauty" reached the royal garden.

O, Golden Beauty! I myself have come to take you. Come with us to Ujjaini.

Your Highness! My place is at your feet.

Chandpradyot and "Golden Beauty" sat on Analgiri and left for Ujjaini.

Next morning the caretaker of the royal elephant yard was surprised to see all the elephants in drowsing. On inspection, he realised—



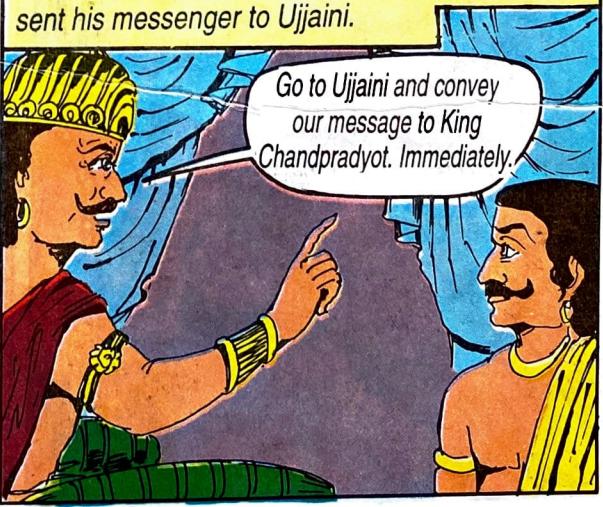
The caretaker informed the king, who instantly called his secret informers.



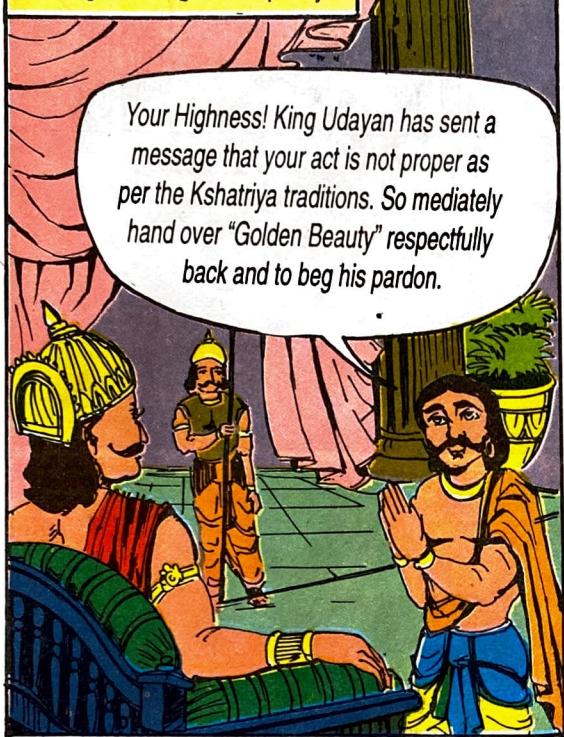
On finding the fact, they returned.



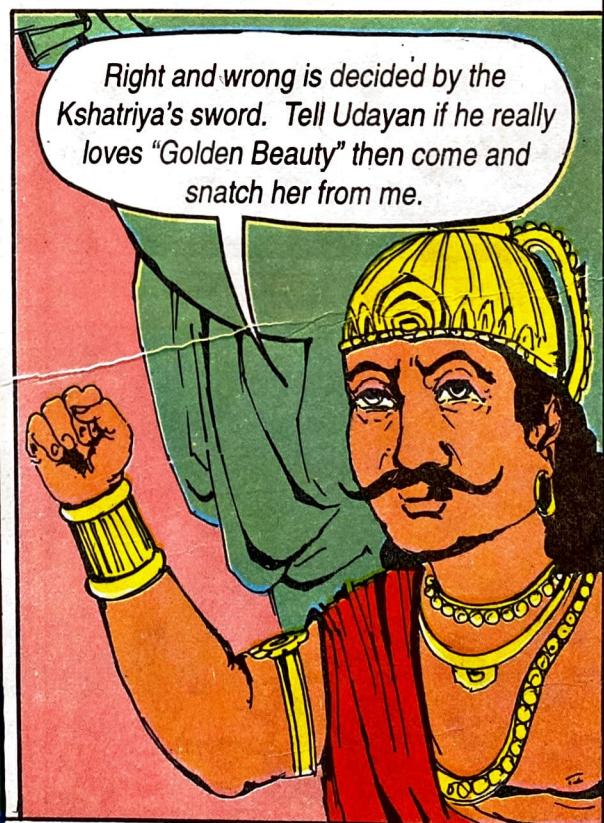
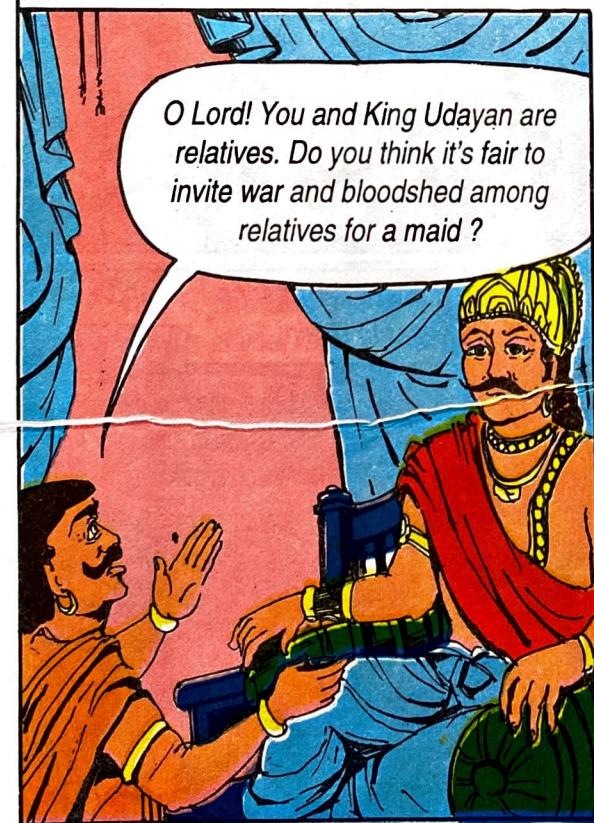
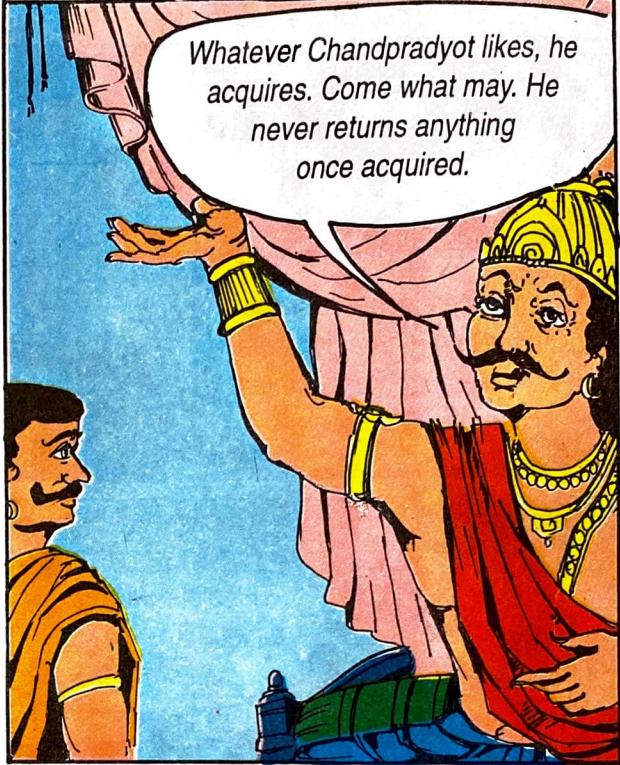
King Udayan got wild on hearing this and soon sent his messenger to Ujjaini.



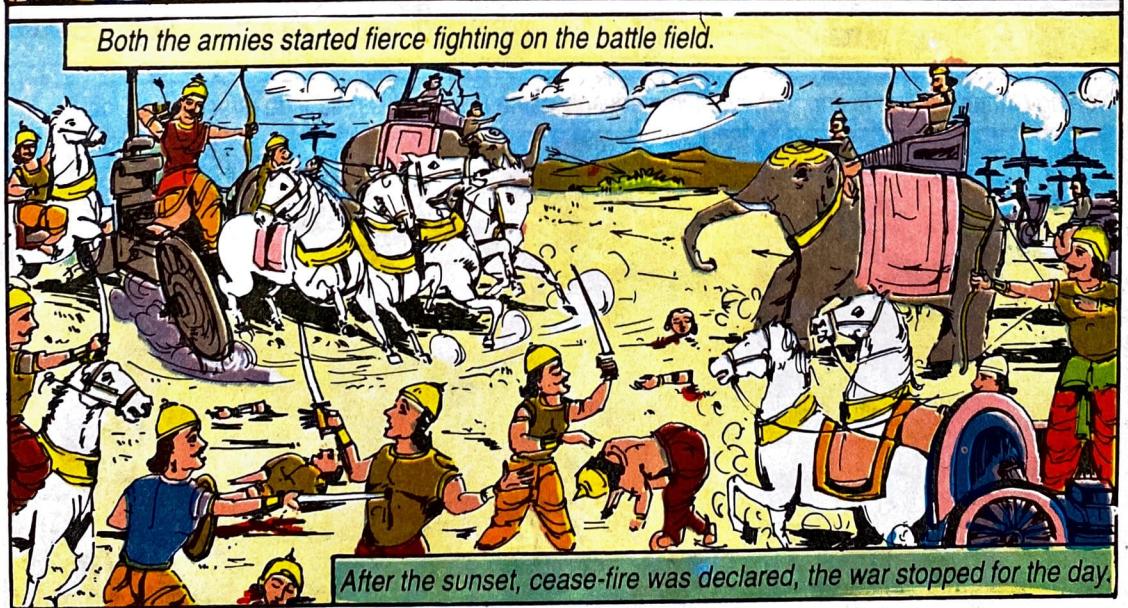
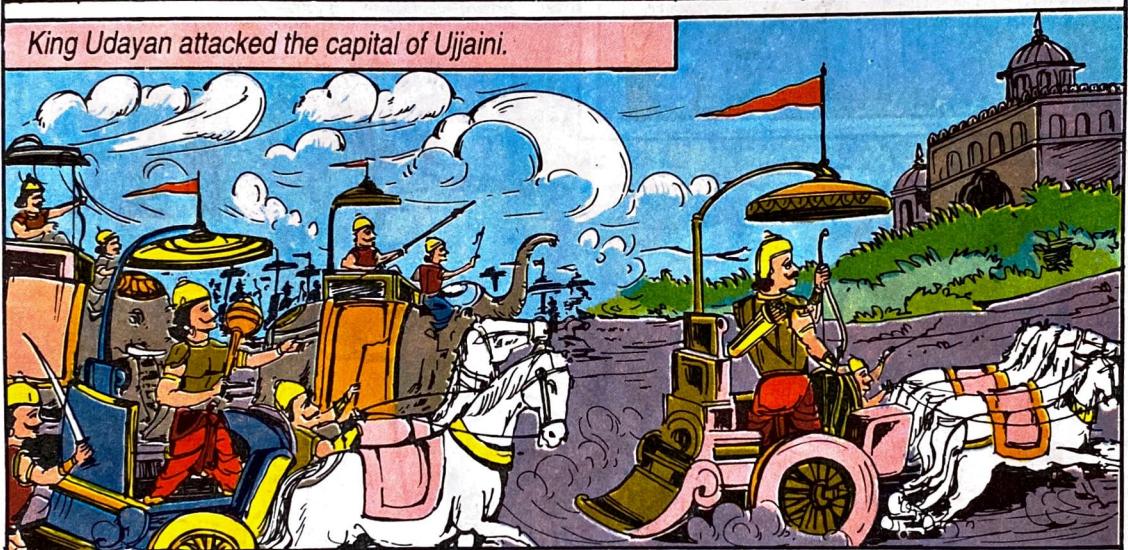
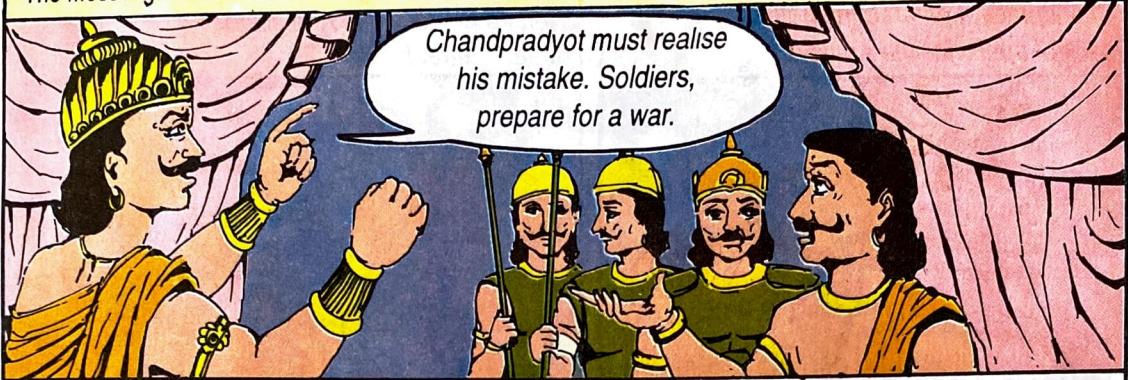
The messenger reached Ujjaini and gave message to King Chandpradyot



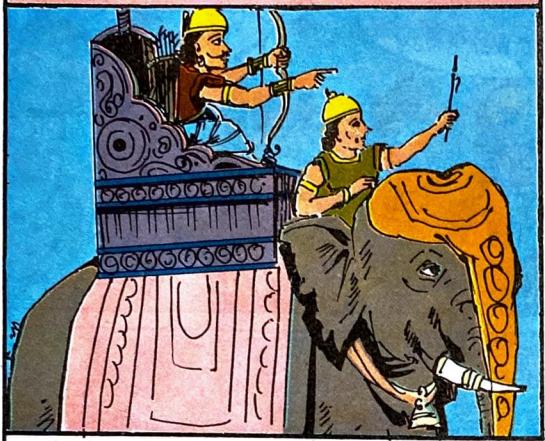
Chandpradyot said with pride—



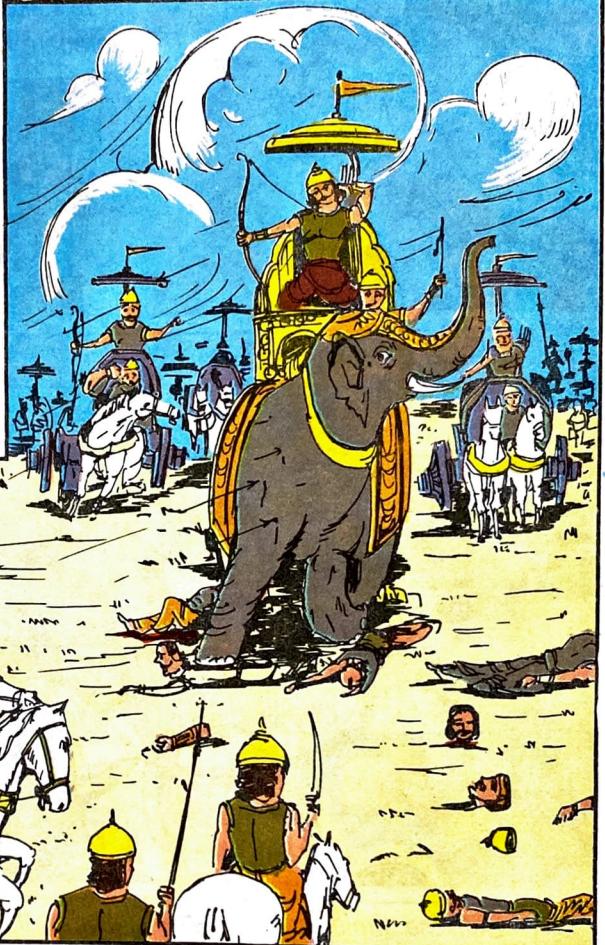
The messenger returned to Sindh and conveyed Chandradyot's reply. King Udayan was stunned to here this.



Next morning war resumed again. King Chandpradyot entered the battlefield on the back of the invincible Analgiri.



But, the powerful arrows of King Udayan forced the rock-like Analgiri to beat a retreat.



Seeing Chandpradyot losing, Lohjangh immediately came flying to his rescue to attack King Udayan.



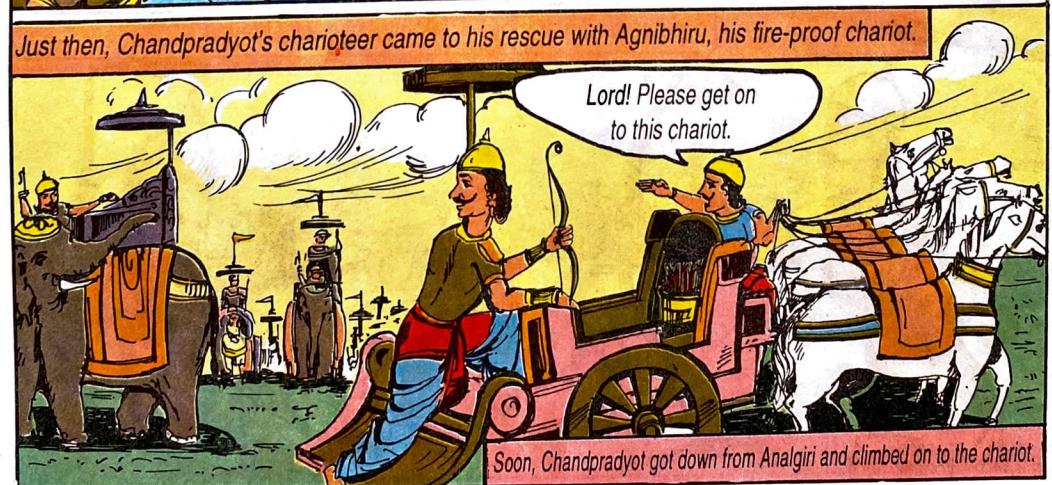
Seeing this, Udayan sent out a miraculous arrow from his powerful bow.



Soon, a rope emerged from the arrow and got wound around Lohjangh's body, suspending him helplessly in mid-air.



Just then, Chandpradyot's charioteer came to his rescue with Agnibhiru, his fire-proof chariot.



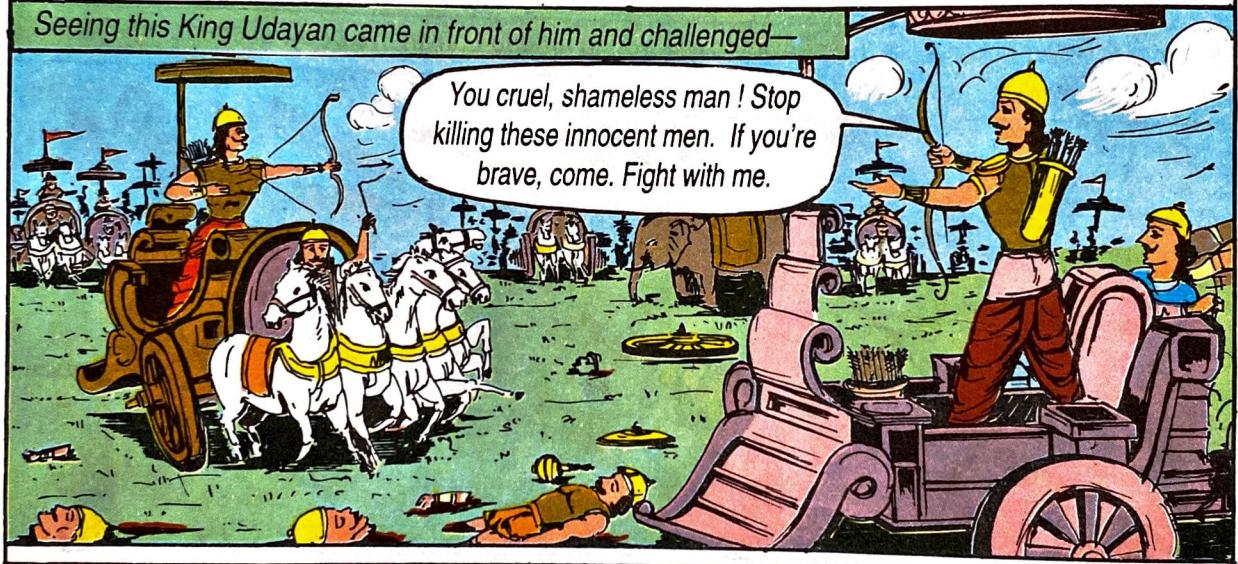
Lord! Please get on
to this chariot.

Soon, Chandpradyot got down from Analgiri and climbed on to the chariot.

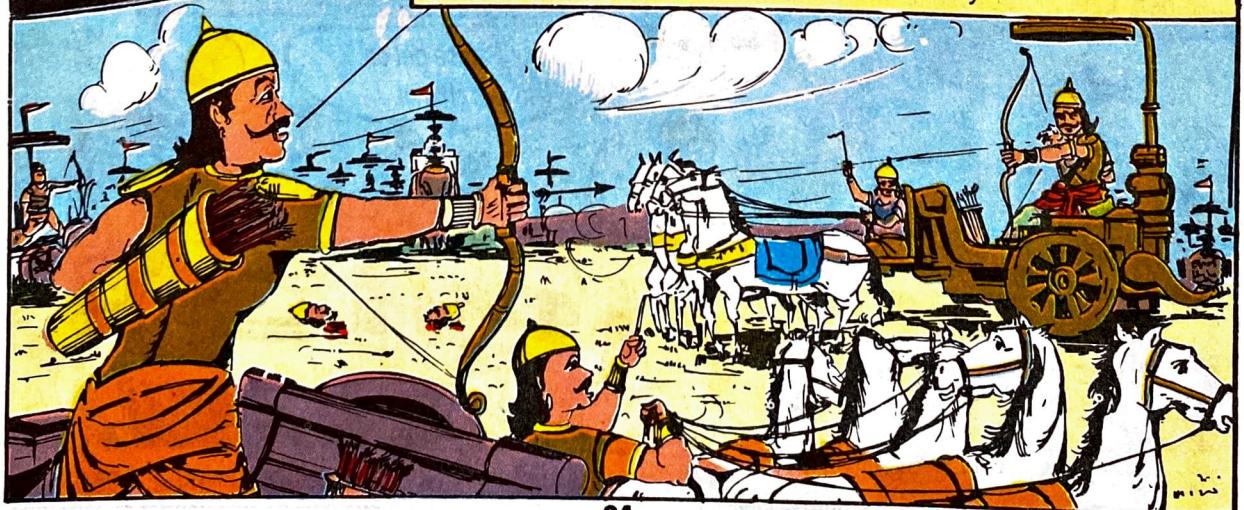
The charioteer drove swiftly towards King Udayan's army, while Chandradayot started killing soldiers through his arrows.



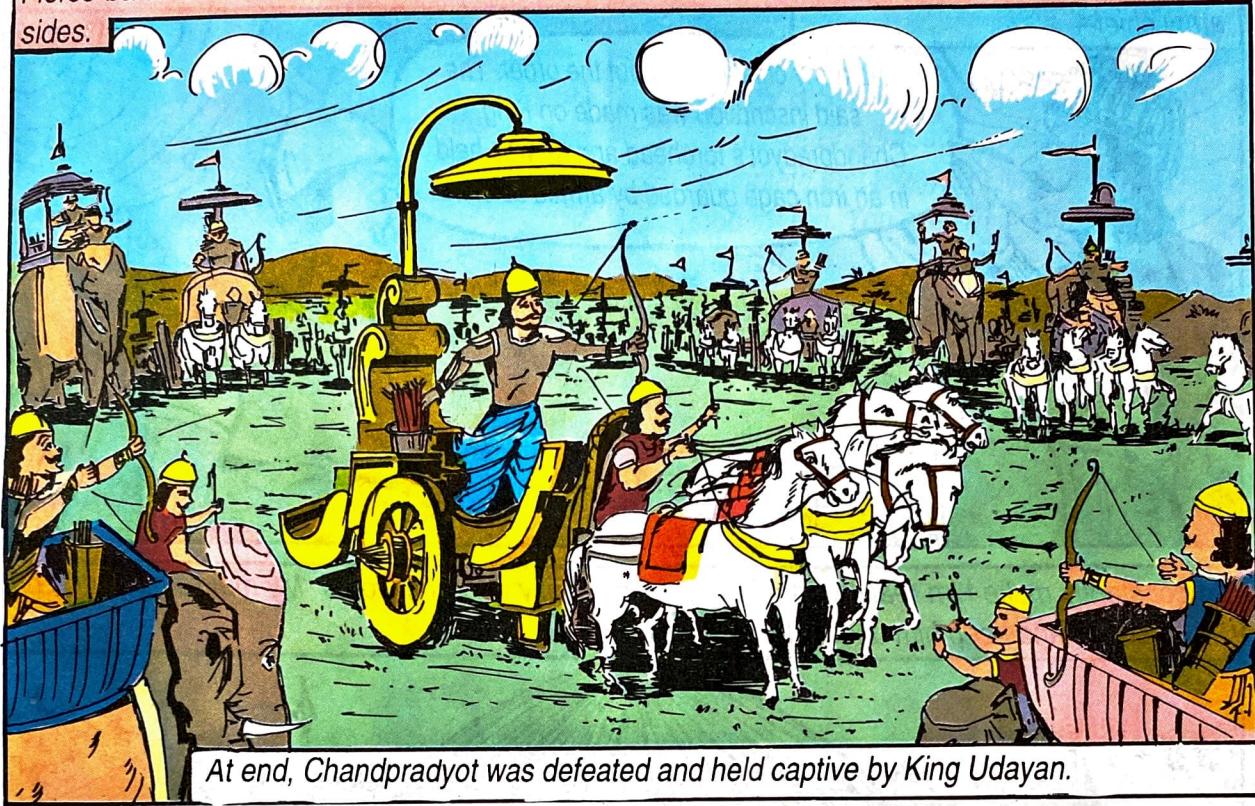
Seeing this King Udayan came in front of him and challenged—



Chandradayot moved fiercely to attack Udayan.

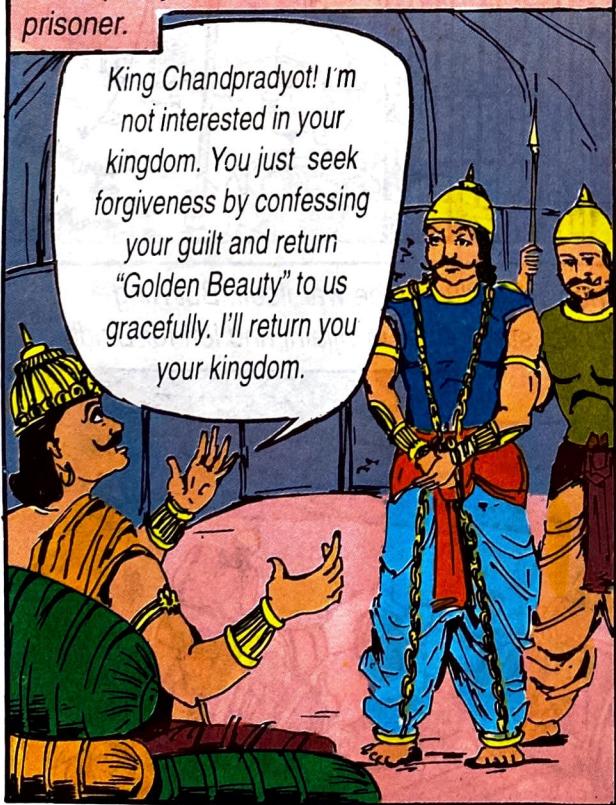


Fierce battle started between the two kings. Udayan's soldiers surrounded Chandpradyot from all sides.



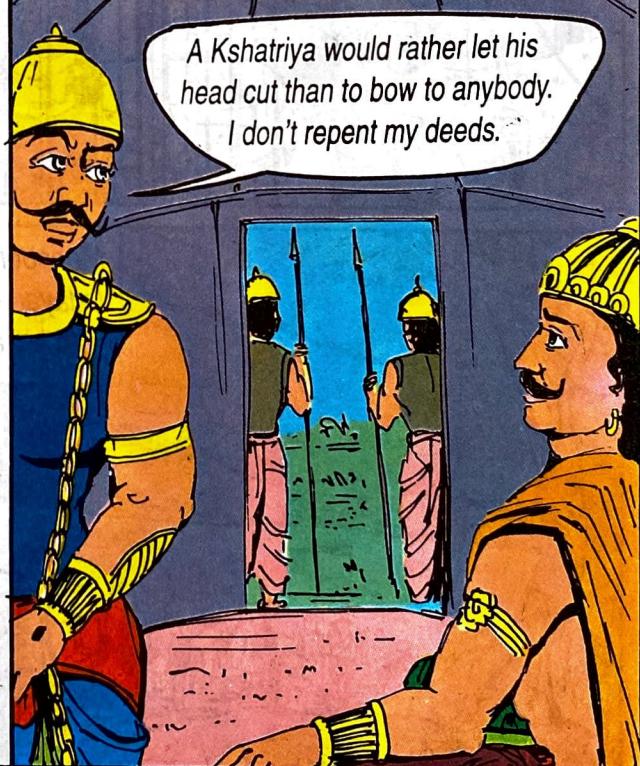
At end, Chandpradyot was defeated and held captive by King Udayan.

Chandpradyot was brought to Udayan as a prisoner.



King Chandpradyot! I'm not interested in your kingdom. You just seek forgiveness by confessing your guilt and return "Golden Beauty" to us gracefully. I'll return you your kingdom.

Proud Chandpradyot told Udayan—



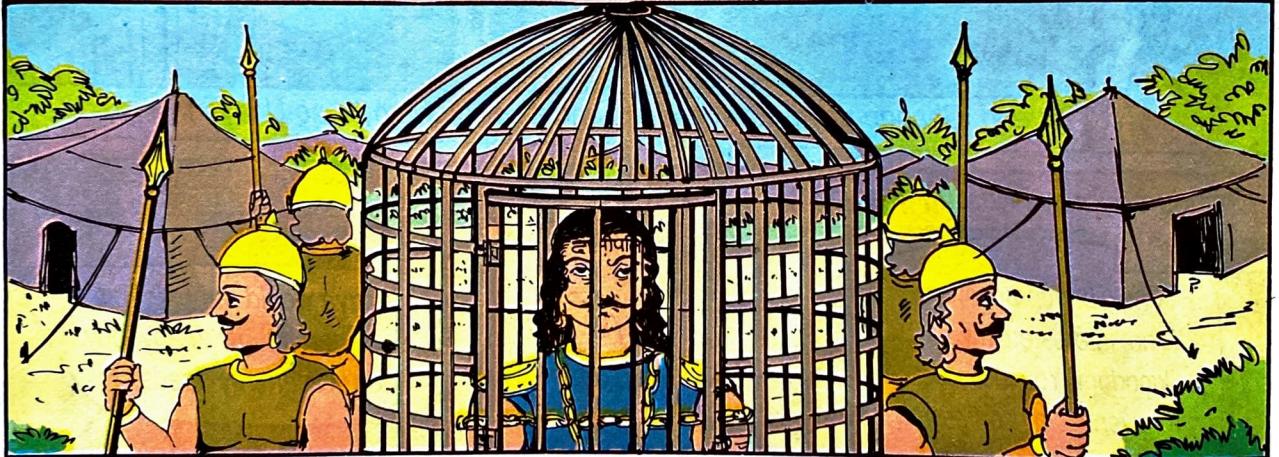
A Kshatriya would rather let his head cut than to bow to anybody. I don't repent my deeds.

Hearing this, Udayan decided to hold him captive and to take him to Sindh. He called his army chief—

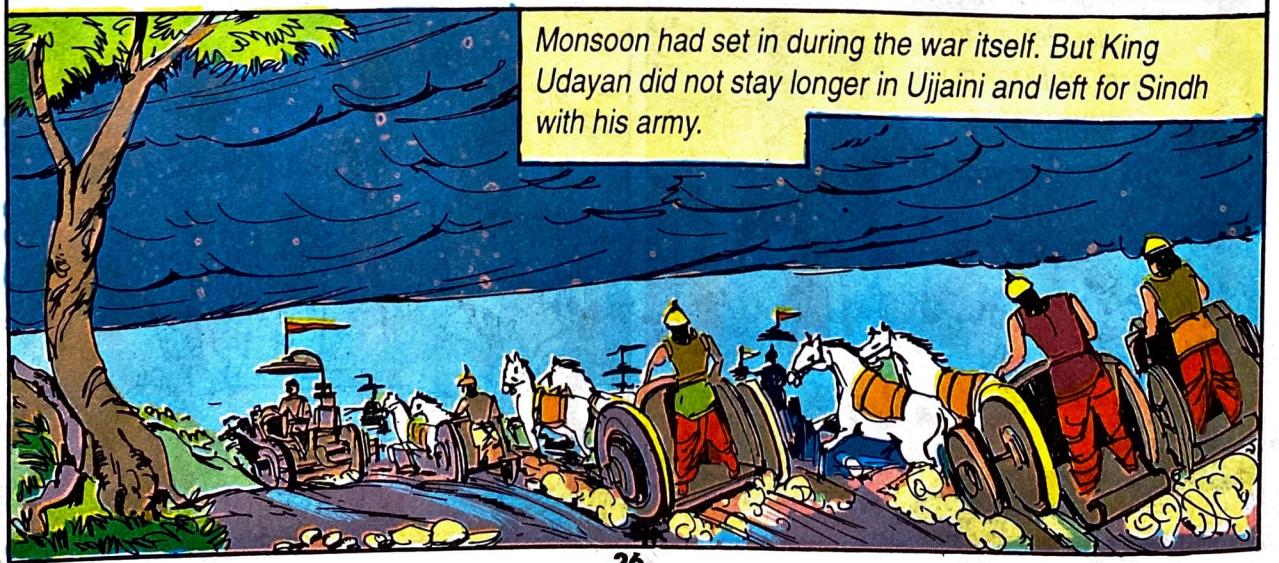
The army chief carried out the order. The said inscription was made on King Chandpradyot's forehead and he was held in an iron cage guarded by armed soldiers.



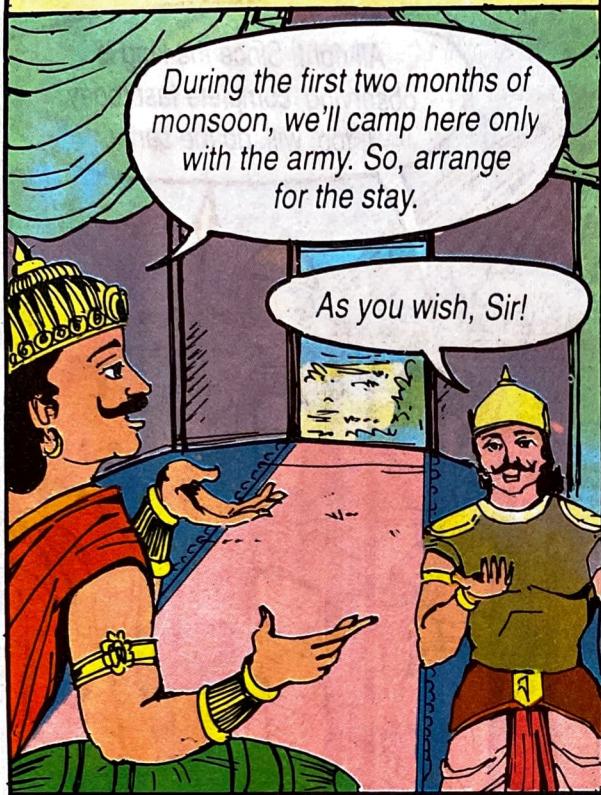
To constantly make him realise his mistake, permanently write the words "My maid's husband" on his forehead and keep him under strict security.



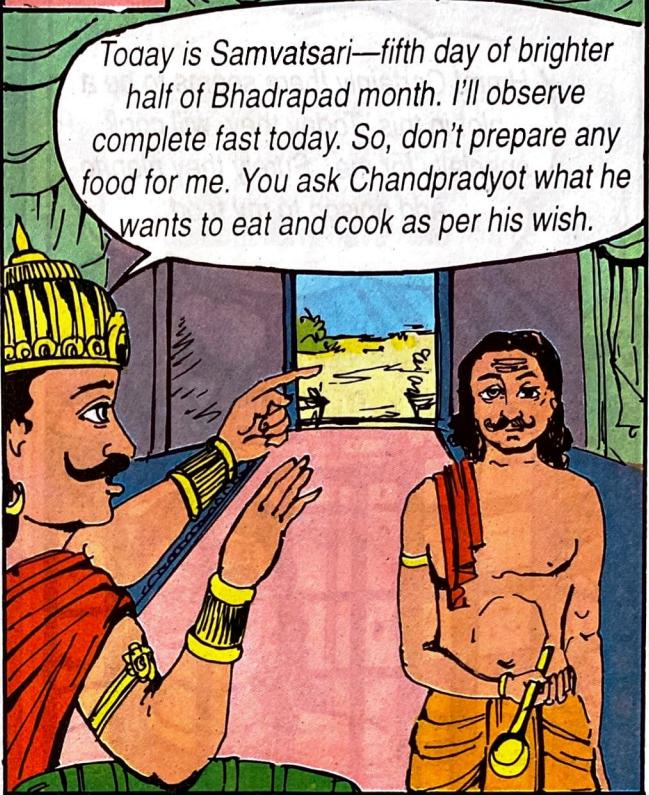
Monsoon had set in during the war itself. But King Udayan did not stay longer in Ujjaini and left for Sindh with his army.



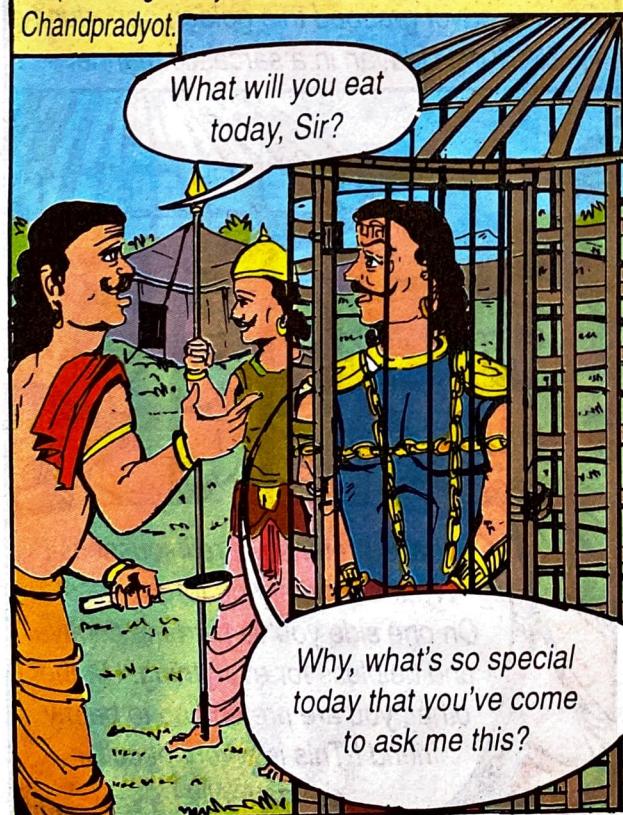
King Udayan camped on the outskirts of Ujjaini and called his army chief—



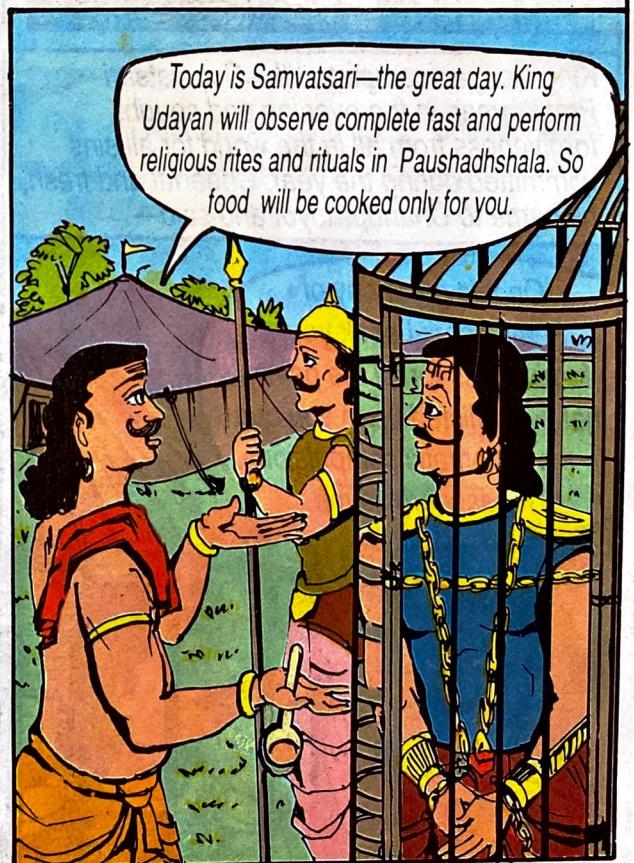
One early morning, King called his cook—



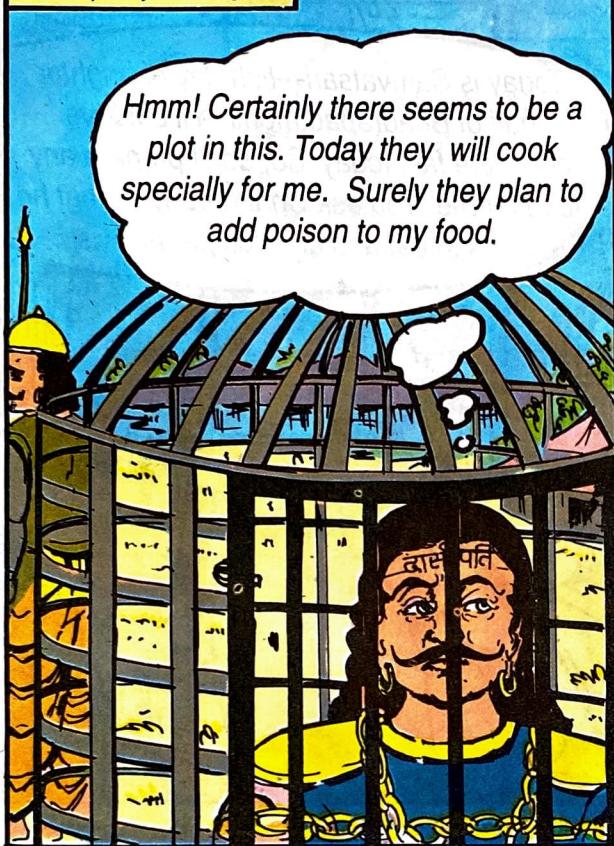
As per King Udayan's command, the cook went to Chandpradyot.



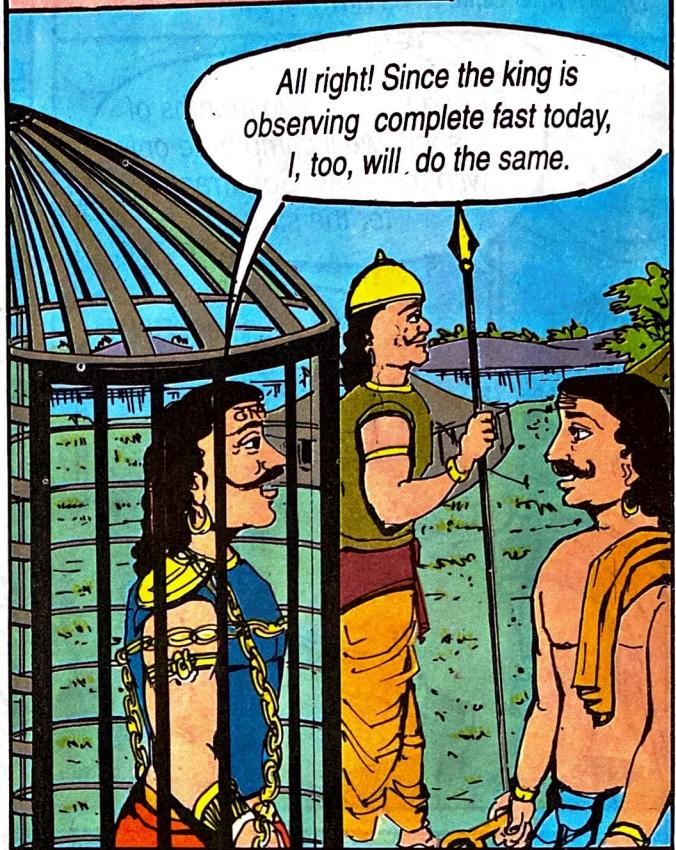
Today is Samvatsari—the great day. King Udayan will observe complete fast and perform religious rites and rituals in Paushadhshala. So food will be cooked only for you.



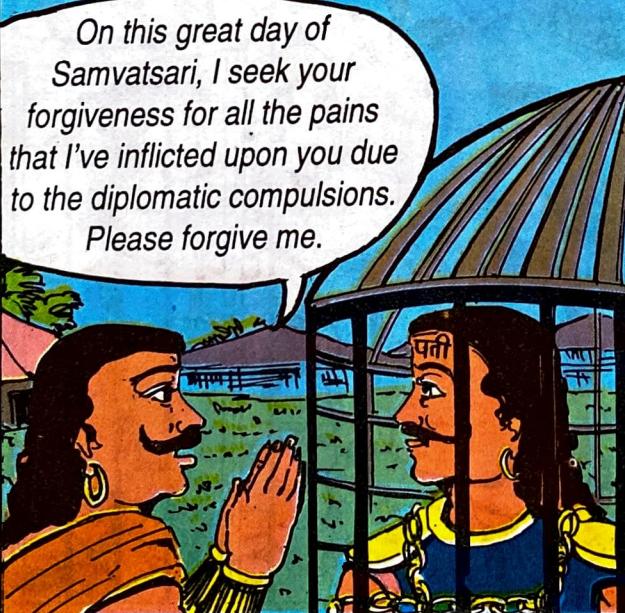
Chandpradyot thought—



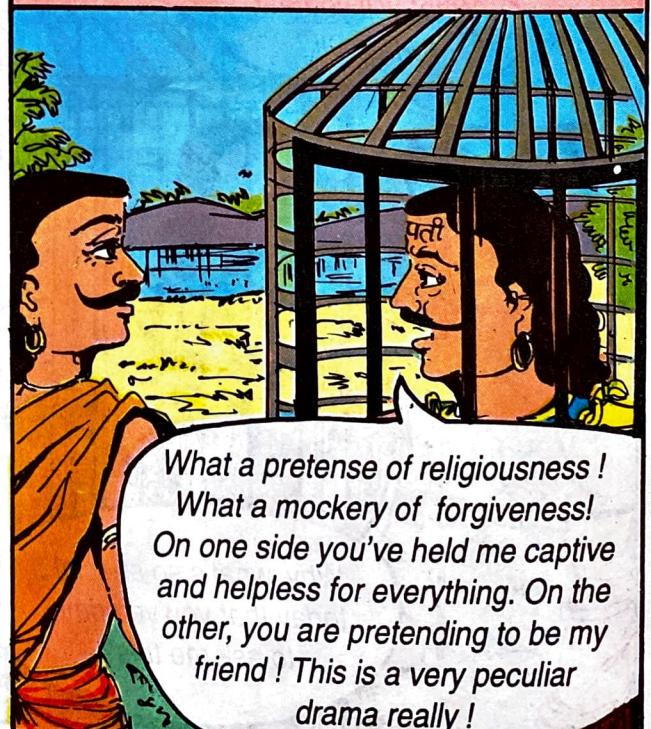
Chandpradyot told the cook—



King Udayan completed the Samvatsari Pratikraman in the evening and sought forgiveness from all in the world for all sins committed during the year. Cheerful and fresh, he came to Chandpradyot and said—

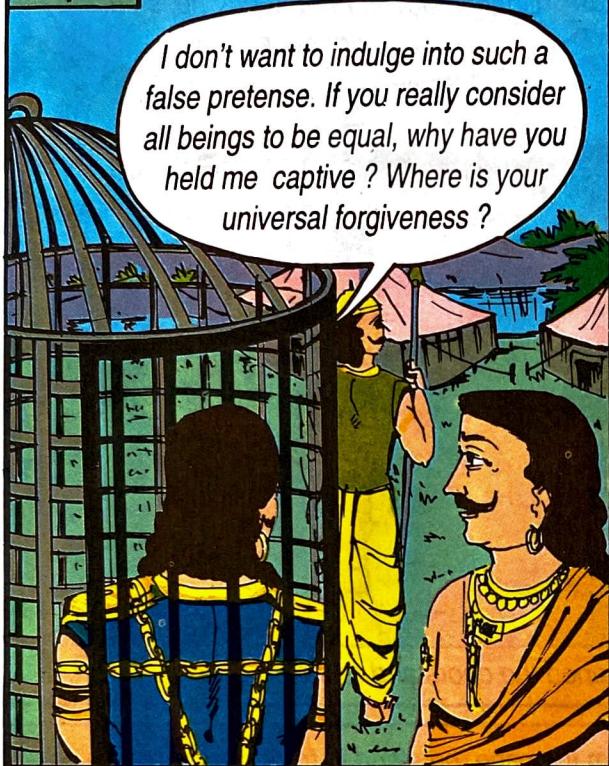


Chandpradyot grabbed this golden opportunity. He told King Udayan in a sarcastic manner—



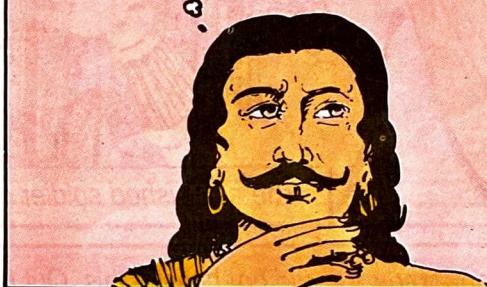
Saying this, Chandpradyot turned his face away—

I don't want to indulge into such a false pretense. If you really consider all beings to be equal, why have you held me captive? Where is your universal forgiveness?



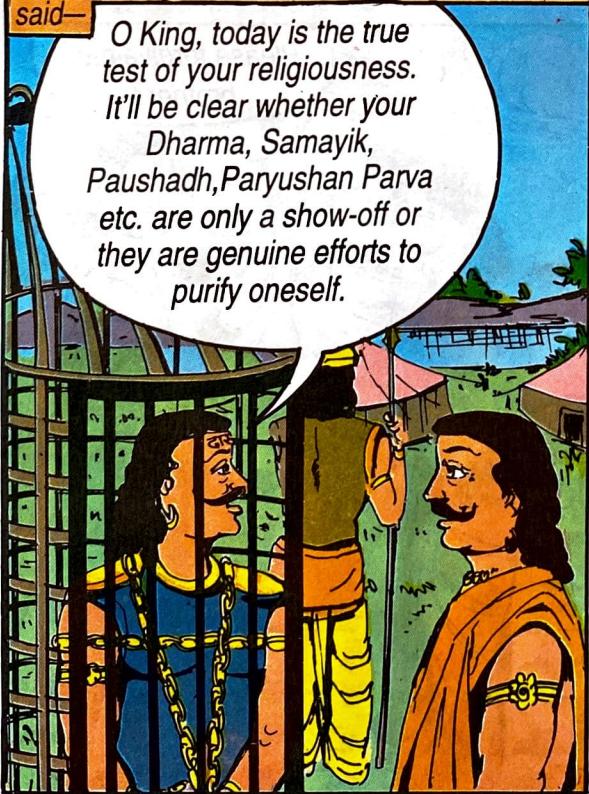
Chandpradyot's comment made Udayan think deeply—

To forgive an offense of a culprit is my religious duty, and Chandpradyot is the biggest offender as of now. Diplomatic compulsions have held him captive. Should not my personal religion grant him freedom?



Seeing King Udayan confused, Chandpradyot said—

O King, today is the true test of your religiousness. It'll be clear whether your Dharma, Samayik, Paushadh, Paryushan Parva etc. are only a show-off or they are genuine efforts to purify oneself.



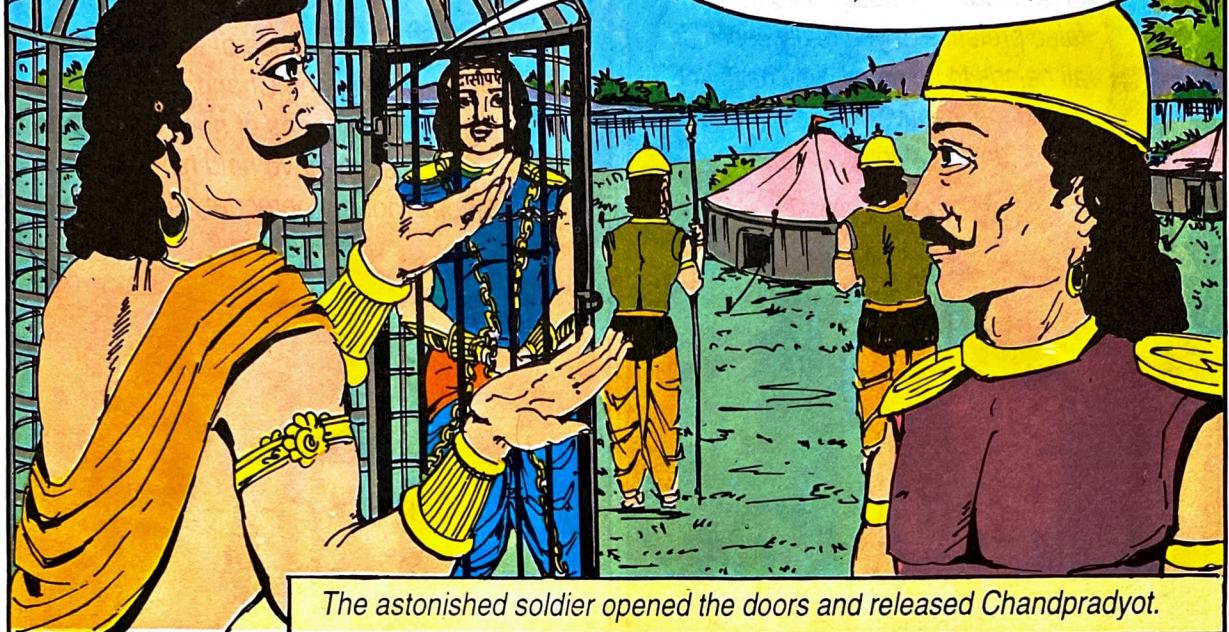
King Udayan again thought deeply—

This is a war of conflicting egos. "Golden Beauty" went with him willingly. Why should I make an issue out of that? Myself—respect is not related to "Golden Beauty" but is linked to my own religion. And my religion is Kshama (Forgiveness) or removal of revengeful thoughts. I've to protect my religion and not my ego. My goal of forgiving all is not achieved till Chandpradyot is also forgiven.



Thinking this, King Udayan told the soldier—

Open the cage and release Chandpradyot. From today he is our brother, not our enemy.



King Chandpradyot could not believe this. Out from the cage, he stood in front of Udayan. There, he felt like an ant standing in front of a huge rock. He felt very inferior against the greatness of Udayan.



King Chandradyot's ego melted like ice. The eyes which used to look red with anger usually, got wet by tears due to repent. He affectionately embraced King Udayan.



That Samvatsari evening, the sky over the camp was filled with the slogans glorifying Udayan's great forgiving.



Hello dear friends,

We'll continue learning something more about Jainism today. I've tried to give simple explanations, but even then, if you find difficult understanding any point, do take the guidance from your parents or Pathshala teachers.

Q.13. What is the concept of God in Jainism ?

Ans. The concept of God is very unique in Jainism. 'God' is a synonym of pure self, soul or atma. God is the perfected state of soul and supreme manifestation of human excellence. Jainism believes that an individual is potentially capable of becoming God, but due to the Karmas, the divinity and the purity of the self is covered. But by one's own effort of penance and meditation one can gradually purify the self and attain the intrinsic pure nature of Godhood. Thus, God is Self and Self is God. God has no abode outside the self.

Q.14. Is God the creator of the universe ?

Ans. It is a popular belief that God is the creator of this universe. But the Jains believe that since time immemorial this universe was, is and will be. It is not created by anyone. Jainism holds the view that the universe is eternal, without any beginning or any end. It functions on its own accord by cosmic laws of nature. While continuous transformation takes place of all substances, nothing is created, preserved or destroyed. Thus, the eternal substances undergo modifications. As a gold bangle is transformed into a gold ring, the gold still remains as gold. Let us hypothetically assume that God created this world. Then the question arises who created the creator ? If the creator has the desire to create he is not perfect. If he has created this world then he created from what ? He cannot create something from nothing. Something comes from something and nothing comes from nothing. So, if the world was created, there was something before this creation. If something was before creation, then the question of creation does not arise.

Again let us for a moment believe that Perfect God created this world. Then the question comes why did he create this imperfect world ? If God is omniscient then He should have known His creation will be full of misery, violence and poverty. This is why Jains believe that the kind and compassionate God has not created this imperfect world.

Q.15. Do Jains believe in idol worship ?

Ans. In Jain dharma some sects believe in idol worship and some don't. In reality for Jains idols are not for worship but are for inspiration and emulation. Idols are symbols that represent the qualities and virtues of the enlightened beings. Meditating on their qualities and the ideals achieved by the Jinas, the devotees can evolve and reach the state of enlightenment as they did.

Q.16. What are the five auspicious events in the life of a Tirthankara ?

Ans. The five auspicious events is a depiction of sequence from birth to nirvana in the life of a Tirthankara. These five events called the Panch Kalyanak occur in the life of every Tirthankara and is celebrated by all the Jains. These five auspicious occasions are :

(1) Chyavana : auspicious moment of conception. The conception of the Lord in his mother's womb.

(2) Janma : auspicious moment of birth. The birth of the Lord.

(3) Diksha : auspicious time of renunciation and initiation. The event of the Lord's renunciation of the worldly life and commencement of a life of austerity and discipline.

(4) Kaivalya gnan: auspicious moment of enlightenment. The event of attaining absolute perfect knowledge through austerities.

(5) Nirvana : auspicious moment of liberation. When all the Karmas are consumed the soul becomes pure. The pure soul is liberated from desires and wants and experiences complete liberation i.e. Moksha. At the time of these Panch Kalyanak, all the souls in the universe experience a moment of peace, bliss and illumination.

*Pramoda Chitrabhanu's
Jai Jinendra*



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VELJI MEGHJI GADA (LAKADIA)

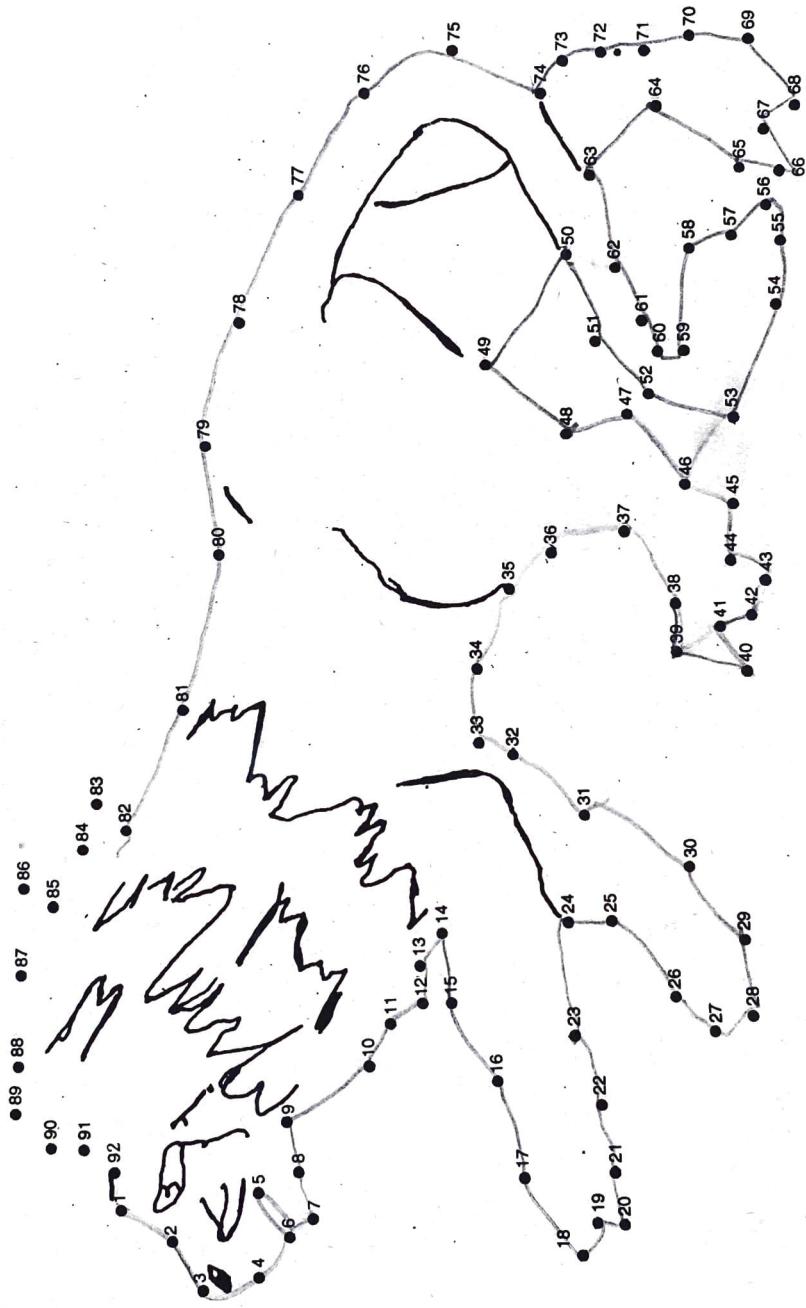
ANGER
DESTROYS
HAPPINESS
OF
MIND

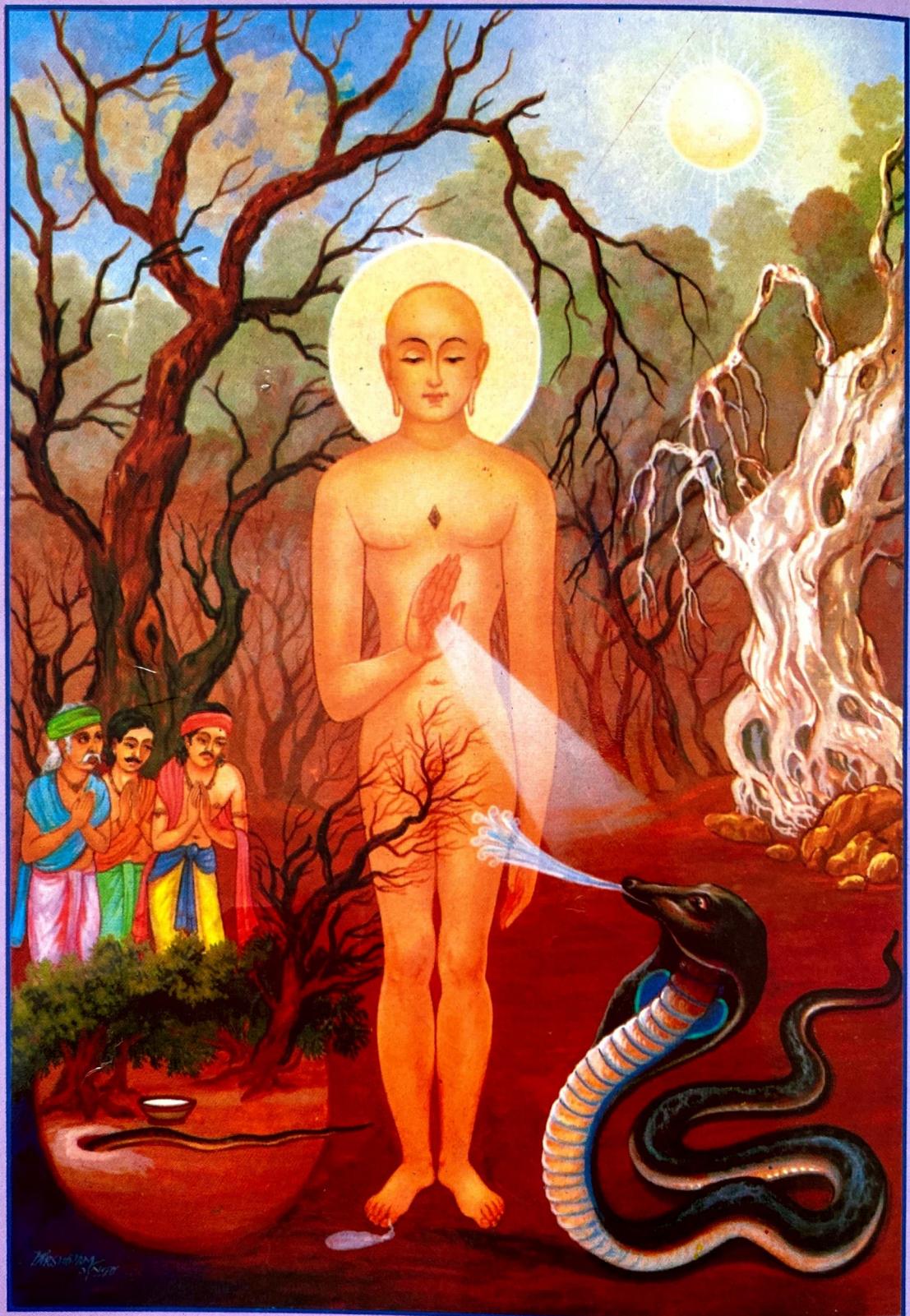
What did you understand from this picture ? Seeing no water in the tap, the person kicks it in anger. But what does he gain ? Nothing. On the other hand, he loses water leaking from his pot.

So, don't be angry. Always remember : For every 10 minutes you are angry, you lose 600 seconds of happiness !



FRIENDS, JOIN THE DOTS IN THE PICTURE AS PER NUMBERS. WHAT DO YOU GET? A LION?
YES, IT'S A LION. THE SYMBOL OF OUR TWENTY FOURTH TIRTHANKARA, BHAGWAN
MAHAVIR. NOW, ADD COLORS TO THIS SKETCH, AND MAKE IT COMPLETE.





Anger destroys peace of mind. Forgiveness makes poison ineffective.

Also, forgiveness makes a small man great. So, learn to forgive.

Learn to give Kshamadan.